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## Soldiers anxious over drawn- out Hebron negotiations

ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

THE eve of redeployment in Hebron seems like an eternity for some soldiers there. For over a month, beefed up forces have patrolled the city night and day and their commanders say they are anxious for something to happen.

"Our edginess does not come from a political situation. It comes from an operations assessment and so there is an anxiousness in the Jewish settlement, the city of Hebron and the entire region due to the dangers which exist," said Col. Gadi, commander of the Hebron District.

Searches continued yesterday in the area for the Palestinians who threw two petrol bombs at an IDF vehicle, wounding two Israeli soldiers. Col. Gadi said the Tuesday night attack in the nearby village of Taffuh was carried out by a known Hamas squad.

"We will catch up to them shortly," the 37-year-old colonel said.

At a battalion cocampment oorth of town, soldiers boarded an armored truck, nicknamed in army slang as a "Safari," and headed toward Hebron. The truck is the same kind troops use in south Lebanon. At Gross Square across from the Cave of Machpelah, squads of troops moved steadily up and down the street, nervously watching a busload of Jewish worshippers singing and dancing before heading back to Ashkelon.

"There's a lot of tensions now. Everyone is waiting to see what is going to be decided. Everyday the news says the redeployment is imminent, but they've been saying that for the past month," said one soldier in a blue Military Police cap.

The town is flooded with troops. Col. Gadi said his brigade has been beefed up.

"Hebron has a glorious past of terror," one commander said. "But we are prepared for any scenario."

Col. Gadi said his combat-trained infantry's main role is to keep public order and fight terror.

"It's no secret that there is great tension in this city. You can see it and feel it when you walk the streets," Gadi said, turning his head toward the sound of singing. "It is due to a very complicated reality which exists in Hebron and has nothing to do with a redeployment or dates and that is because we don't know of any dates and don't deal with any dates."

"We are not preparing for anything specific because we still don't know how the redeployment will look," Gadi said. "We are preparing for lots of possibilities."

The IDF has all but cleared out of the three areas it is meant to hand over to the Palestinians. The Hebron headquarters, a 60-year-old British Army-built Taggart fort, is currently manned by a skeleton crew. The checkpoints at Shekron and Glass junctions are still functioning. All can be evacuated within hours.

(Continued on Page 2)



The body of one of the Comoro Islands crash victims is unloaded at Ben-Gurion Airport from the El Al 757 which yesterday returned the remains of the seven Israeli victims for burial. (Assaf Shilo/Israel Sun)

## SA newylweds net \$65,000 for Comoros air-crash video

SOUTH African newylweds who made a video recording of the crash of the hijacked Ethiopian Airlines plane said yesterday they sold the film for \$65,000.

Dolf and Marinda Gouws of Pretoria were honeymooning at a beach hotel in the Comoros Islands when the Boeing 767 plunged into the sea before their eyes, killing 125 people.

Marinda, 23, filmed the crash and limbless bodies being dragged from the water. Worldwide Television News paid \$65,000 for the cassette. Dolf Gouws said.

WTN was the highest bidder among television news organizations covering the aftermath of the crash. South African newspapers said the Gouws were paid \$87,000.

"I was laying on the beach. Me and my wife were getting a tan there and she was filming me, and while she was busy with the video, the aircraft just came out of nowhere," Gouws said. "It came out of the palm trees from the back side over the sea and it was about a meter above the sea."

LIAT COLLINS and news agencies

At first the couple thought they were seeing an air show for tourists and only realized they were watching a doomed plane when it hit the water. Gouws said he and his wife were happy to help investigators, who held onto the tape for several days.

"Although we made a great deal of money from the crash, we were really upset about it and felt terrible for the people who were killed," Marinda said.

Foreign Minister David Levy yesterday sent condolences to the bereaved families of the crash victims and called on the international community and airline companies to take greater action against terrorism in all forms.

The bodies of the seven Israeli crash victims were brought to Israel yesterday on an El Al flight from Nairobi.

Ya'acov Bar-On, 30, of Tel Aviv, was buried yesterday in Kiryat Shaul cemetery. The funerals

for the six other victims will be held today.

Answering several motions to the Knesset plenum agenda on the tragedy, Levy said Israel was among the first countries with citizens on the flight to organize a rescue mission and that other states had asked Israel to help them.

He said he would continue to investigate a complaint by the family of one of the victims that the ministry had not acted properly. But he stressed he had no evidence so far to support the family's claim, that a ministry worker had hung up the phone on them. He said such behavior would not be acceptable.

He also stressed the ministry is continuing to make every effort to locate and return the bodies of two Israelis missing since an ADC Airline crashed in swamps near the Nigerian capital of Lagos on November 7.

The two are Baruch Sidon and David Gimzburg, who has dual Israeli-US nationality. Levy said the quest was hindered by the difficult terrain and conditions in the area of the crash.

## Kahalani: We are responsible for Border Police violence

BILL HUTMAN

THE general public, as well as the government, must take responsibility for brutality towards Palestinians by border policemen, "because we sent them on their difficult mission" in the territories, Internal Security Minister Avigdor Kahalani said yesterday.

"When they joined the Border Police, they did not display this aggression. Rather, the mission they face day in and day out does something to them," Kahalani said, in reaction to the controversy sparked by last week's televised incident of border policemen heating up Palestinian workers.

Kahalani, in an interview on Israel Radio, responded to Attorney-General Michael Beo-

Yair's statement Tuesday that Border Police violence towards Palestinians is widespread.

The minister said that the Border Police itself must work to halt the brutality against Palestinians, "but we shouldn't put all the blame on the border policemen. We are the ones that sent them on their difficult mission."

"I believe that give that we as a government and state chose them for the most difficult mission, [we must realize it] - creates a situation in which boys from good homes' all of a sudden are put in direct conflict with the Palestinians," Kahalani

said.

"To come out today and all of a sudden blame those who serve in the Border Police? These are the units that we every day ask to deal with the Palestinian problem. That just doesn't sound right," he continued.

"We, as a society and as a state, are forbidden from accepting [the brutal behavior]. On the other hand, we shouldn't go jumping on those people, and put them blame on them," he said.

"I promise one thing, that to the Border Police command, changes are being made that will bring about greater awareness [that such brutal behavior is forbidden] throughout the force," Kahalani said.

## US slams settlement expansion

HILLEL KUTTLER

WASHINGTON

STATE Department spokesman Nicholas Burns said yesterday that while Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has "a right" to visit Israeli settlements, the settlements are unhelpful in reaching a peace deal.

For the first time, Burns also alluded to reports of Israel's plans to expand settlements on the Golan Heights, saying that they, too, complicate the peace process.

During his daily briefing, Burns told reporters, "Settlements are a complicating factor in the peace negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians and the other tracks. And we hold to that view." (Continued on Page 2)

## Miracle declared in Bethlehem as Jesus 'weeps'

TOM GROSS

A MODERN miracle has been declared in Bethlehem by church leaders who claim that a painting of Jesus on a marble column in the Basilica of the Nativity has started "weeping."

"I have seen it myself," declared Father Anastasios, the official representative in Bethlehem of Jerusalem's Greek Orthodox Archbishop Diodoros.

Nonclerical witnesses also have claimed that they actually have seen tears emerge from the painting, which is located above the grotto of the nativity, believed by many to be the exact spot where Jesus was born. One man working in a shop directly opposite the fourth-century church on Manger Square said: "I saw a tear run down from Jesus' right eye. It stopped on his cheek near the edge of his nose."

"Many people have seen the tears," said Father Anastasios. "It is



The weeping painting of Jesus on the wall of the Basilica of the Nativity in Bethlehem. (Brian Heffler)

officially declared a great miracle. Jesus is crying because the world is not going well," he added.

In Jerusalem, a spokesman for Archbishop Diodoros was reported as saying that "something remarkable is happening in Bethlehem."

Experts believe that the painting in question in this church, the

oldest continuously used church in the world, dates back to the 12th century.

Muslims also have sworn that the "miracle" is true. Sadika Hamida, aged 60, a cleaner at the church, said "At first I couldn't believe my eyes. It was only when I got closer that I realized that the tears were real. This is the will of God. Word has spread and hundreds of people are now coming to see for themselves every day."

But others in Bethlehem dismissed the idea of a miracle. "What a load of nonsense," said one sister in the town. "If one person says they see something, then everyone starts saying they've seen it. Our faith is not based on some cheap ploy to grab attention."

"It happens now and again in churches," added the sister. "If you say you can't see the tears they say you have no faith. Now some people are saying they can

see the eye blinking too."

Cynics believe the reports are a ploy by locals, desperate to boost tourism in the run up to Christmas. Hotels have experienced a spate of cancellations since the gun battles between Palestinian Police and the IDF in September were shown on TV screens around the world. The Christmas Hotel is one of several nearby hotels that may shut temporarily this Christmas due to lack of customers.

One man said, "the so-called tears are probably the result of vapor condensation coming down from the roof."

The office of the Latin Catholic Patriarchate in Jerusalem said it is looking into reports but had not decided yet whether to join the Greek Orthodox Church in officially declaring a miracle. The last major "miracle" in the region was when the Virgin Mary was allegedly sighted in Cairo in 1967.

## IDF sets up anti-guerrilla combat training school

ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

According to the weekly, the decision to set up the new school was made to meet the changing demands of border-security operations. Anti-guerrilla training now receives precedence over other combat training.

The IDF, which has been mainly performing police

actions in the territories since it last fought a war in 1982, has been steadily adopting anti-guerrilla tactics in its fight against Hizbullah.

However, this is one of the first times the IDF has acknowledged it is fighting a "guerrilla" war and actually put that above preparing for a conventional war.



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سكنا من الاجل

# Olmert: PA official liaising with churches

A Palestinian Authority official is operating in Jerusalem as a liaison to the capital's Christian churches, in violation of the ban on PA activity in Jerusalem, according to a report the Jerusalem Municipality compiled on the PA's activities in the city.

The report details the PA's alleged new and continued activities in Jerusalem, including the operations of PA security agents, PA-affiliated offices and Orient House, the PLO headquarters in the city.

The PA liaison is identified as Ibrahim Kandallaf, the advisor on Christian affairs to PA Minister of Waqf and Religious Affairs Hassan Tahboub. Kandallaf, a Greek-Orthodox Jerusalem resident, works out of Tahboub's office in the Old City, according to the report.

Israeli officials now find themselves sharing the stage with Kandallaf at various events of Jerusalem's Christian community, the report states.

"Kandallaf's position is largely symbolic, but it is still very important for the PA, and detrimental to our position with regard to the Christian community in Jerusalem," a government source said, adding that the matter already had been raised with several ministers.

Mayor Ehud Olmert presented parts of the report to the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee on Tuesday during a discussion of alleged PA and

**BILL HUTMAN**  
Israeli violations of the Oslo Accords.

The report stated that the PA continued to operate at least four offices in Jerusalem, including one - the Maps and Geography Department - that the PA had promised the government it would move out of the city.

Department head Khalil Toufakji continues to work from the same building in Jerusalem's Wadi Joz neighborhood, providing the PA with information on settlement activity in the territories and east Jerusalem, despite the PA announcement several months ago that the office was closed, according to the report.

Other alleged PA violations in Jerusalem listed in the report included:

- Oriot House's continued role as a PA foreign ministry. Various other PA activities are also carried out there, despite Oriot House officials' claims that it is independent of the PA.

- Jamal Nasser, the PA's governor of Jerusalem who has an office just outside of Jerusalem in Abu Dis, concentrated his work outside the city until several months ago. Recently, however, he has begun operating within city limits.

- He also is personally involved in the PA's attempt to control the Waqf, the Moslem religious authority responsible for Al-Aksa Mosque.

- Various branches of the Palestinian security services continue to operate in Jerusalem. On Monday, on Salah A-Din Street undercover Palestinian policemen arrested the major suspect in the kidnapping a day earlier of a child from Ramallah. The child was located soon afterwards.

- (Jerusalem police spokesman Shmuel Ben-Ruby said police have received information on the Salah A-Din arrest, and are investigating it. He said the Israel Police were not aware in advance of the reported Palestinian Police arrest.)

- Among the PA offices operating in Jerusalem is the Palestinian Workers' Headquarters, just off Salah A-Din Street.

- The office is funded directly by the PA. (Palestinian sources said the office was raided by the police and General Security Service on Tuesday, but this could not be immediately confirmed.)

- The PA continues to expand its influence over the city's Palestinian private school system. PA Education Ministry inspectors visit many of the private schools and oversee their curriculum and other matters.

- The PA has funneled money to several Palestinian organizations in Jerusalem to purchase properties and renovate buildings in response to Israeli development projects in eastern Jerusalem.



Labor MK Sallah Tarif shakes hands with a border policeman at the A-Ram checkpoint north of Jerusalem (Reuters)

## Tarif tests Border Police

**LIAT COLLINS**

MK Sallah Tarif (Labor), chairman of the Knesset Interior Committee, woke up at 5 a.m. yesterday and left the Holiday Inn Crown Plaza Jerusalem dressed as a Palestinian worker - wearing a cap and keffiyeh - to carry out a spot check at a Border Police crossing.

The element of surprise would have been better preserved had Tarif refrained from inviting a television news team to record the visit. The crew attracted the attention of the border policemen, who, Tarif said, treated him more courteously and efficiently than he had expected. He pretended to be a worker who had forgotten his work permit and identity card.

Last week, Tarif declared the committee would carry out periodic checks following the incident in which border policemen were filmed violently abusing and humiliating Arab workers.

At a later hour yesterday morning, Tarif carried out another check at the A-Ram crossing near Jerusalem, this time without a head covering for disguise and accompanied by other committee members and more journalists.

Border policemen described their work as frustrating and leading to burnout. They said combat they feel soldiers in Lebanon get all the glory, while they are doing all the dirty work.

The officers described the difficulties of the job and said the press is selective in its coverage.

Lt.-Cmdr. David Ronen, the Border Police commander of Judea and Samaria, noted that in a recent incident at the check point near Bethlehem, border policemen were attacked by a large group of Arabs who were apparently drunk.

None of the border policemen justified the violence of their colleagues.

## Froman: Arafat's meeting with settlers was not the first

**HERB KEINON**

THE meeting in Bethlehem this week between Yasser Arafat and a group of Jewish settlers was not the first such parley, Rabbi Menachem Froman said yesterday.

Froman, who lives in the Gush Etzion settlement of Tekoa and has long advocated dialogue with the PLO and even Hamas, said meetings with Arafat and top Arafat advisers have taken place a number of times recently - with more prominent settlers than the ones who took part in Tuesday's meeting. Froman would provide no details.

The only settler at the meeting who agreed to be identified was Efrat resident David Bedein. Yehuda Wachsmann, father of slain soldier Nachshon Wachsmann, also attended, but he "lives" in Jerusalem.

The meeting in Bethlehem came two weeks after Bedein met in Hebron with Faiz Kawasmi, an Arafat confidant in that city. Bedein raised the idea then of a group of settlers meeting with Arafat, and Kawasmi said he would look into the matter.

Bedein told Israel Radio the meeting was held "because of concerns by Arabs about doing business with Jews in Judea and Samaria" unless Arafat gave his permission.

Froman said the meeting gave a green light to business ventures in the Hebron area, between Arabs and Jews that are just waiting to be set up.

The meeting was condemned by the Council of Jewish Settlements in Judea, Samaria and Gaza. Since three of the participants were reportedly from Kiryat Arba and one from Beit Hadassah in Hebron, these settlements also condemned the meeting. The other settlers were from Efrat, Kfar Etzion and Elazar. Arafat's adviser

Ahmed Tibi also took part. "We condemn any meeting with Arafat," said Hebron spokesman David Wilder.

"It just adds to his legitimacy as a leader. He is a terrorist with a tremendous amount of blood on his hand - including the blood of Jews from Hebron.

"If someone from here went to meet with him, it was strictly on a personal level. It is not representative of us in any way, shape or form." A Kiryat Arba spokesman said the residents who went to the meeting have been ostracized in the community.

Joseph Alpher, director of the Israel-Middle East office of the American Jewish Committee in Jerusalem, organized a series of meetings in 1995 between top PLO officials and settlement leaders. This week's meetings were "a step in the right direction," Alpher

said, but will be a "side show unless the people in Kiryat Arba and Hebron are in some kind of leadership [position]. To the extent that these people are seen as oddballs, the meetings have no significance, and Arafat would be mistaken to see them as having any significance."

Most of those at the meeting would not identify themselves, so it is unlikely it will have a "multiplier effect," Alpher said.

## Driver dies in crash

YARON Kimhim, 24, was killed yesterday evening when he lost control of his car near the entrance to Savyon, drove onto the sidewalk and crashed into a wall. A Magen David Adom crew took him to Sheba Hospital at Tel Hashomer, where he died several hours later.

## ANXIOUS

(Continued from Page 1)  
"We can do it within the duration that the orders will tell us to do it," Gadi said.

The army has placed large cement blocks painted white throughout the city to demarcate the border between H1, the proposed Palestinian-controlled areas, and H2, which will remain under IDF control.

But until the redeployment is agreed upon, the IDF's grip on the city is being maintained. Nothing has ceased yet, Col. Gadi said. Foot patrols still take place throughout the city. IDF vehicles make their rounds in all neighborhoods and security checks go on.

"Our role here is to give security," he said.

## SLAMS

(Continued from Page 1)  
"Prime Minister Netanyahu certainly has a right to visit Ariel. I think I was misquoted. A newspaper service reported me as saying [Tuesday] that I objected to his visit. Actually, he has a right to visit Ariel."

"But we do believe that the expansion of the settlements would be a complicating factor, an unhelpful factor, in the peace negotiations."



## Livnat threatens to annex territories

**LIAT COLLINS**

LIKUD MK Limor Livnat said yesterday she would recommend that Israel declare sovereignty over Judea, Samaria and Gaza if Yasser Arafat declares a Palestinian state.

Livnat, the government liaison to the Knesset, was answering motions to the agenda on Arafat's statements that he would declare an independent Palestinian state within two years. In calling on the government to establish sovereignty in the territories, however, Livnat noted she was expressing her own views.

In her official government response, Livnat said that should Arafat declare a Palestinian state it would not only violate the Oslo Accords, but nullify them. She said Israel would not be threatened and would continue to preserve its interests.

Livnat said unilateral declarations are contrary to the essence of the negotiating process.

She accused Arafat of establishing a deliberate trend to evade and violate the agreements and cited an example noted by her ministry of attempts by the Palestinian Authority to establish its own telephone network in violation of the accords.

She said this pattern would lead to nullifying the accords and would endanger the entire peace process. "Arafat's tendency in recent months to evade even those subjects which have already been agreed on is negative and might even be dangerous, particularly for the Palestinians," she said.

MK Tziporiv-Sanza (Democratic Arab Party), who frequently interrupted the debate, said Arafat had declared Palestinian independence eight years ago and Palestinians celebrate this statement every November 15.

## Man who filmed border police arrested

AZZAM Maraka, who took the video footage of two border policemen beating Palestinian workers that made headlines last week, was arrested yesterday for allegedly attacking Jerusalem Municipality inspectors.

Police spokesman Shmuel Ben-Ruby said Maraka beat up two inspectors who were forcing the closure of his brother's vending stand and other illegal stands on Sultan Suleiman Street, just outside the Old City, and near Maraka's money changing shop.

Another Palestinian man was also detained for attacking the inspectors. One was lightly injured and hospitalized, Ben-Ruby said.

Maraka's relatives said he received threats in recent days from policemen, and border policemen in particular.

Bill Hutman

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### The World Zionist Organization

mourns the death of

### ALICE GOLDMANN

widow of former World Zionist Organization President, Nahum Goldmann  
who will be laid to rest on Sunday, December 1, 1996 (20 Kislev 5757) at 3 p.m., in the WZO Presidents Section of the Mt. Herzl Cemetery.

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Every proposal must be accompanied by either an unconditional bank guarantee drawn upon an Israeli bank in the amount of \$10,000 or a bankers check in said amount.

Proposal documents can be obtained from the Purchasing Department at Ben-Gurion International Airport, main passenger terminal, second floor, room 233, until 10/12/96.

Proposals should be submitted in two copies and placed in the tenders box in: Archives, Israeli Airports Authority, main office, 2nd floor, room 113, Ben-Gurion International Airport 70100, Israel, no later than 2/1/97 at 10:00 a.m.

The Israeli Airports Authority is not obligated to accept any or the lowest proposal.



One of the three haredi men suspected of beating a Jerusalem haredi woman for sheltering a friend is brought to Jerusalem Magistrate's Court yesterday. All three were remanded for five days. (Brian Hentler)

## Ministry orders Ramat Gan lab to halt AIDS testing

HEALTH Minister Yehoshua Matza yesterday asked his director-general, Prof. Gabi Barabash, to immediately halt HIV testing by the Tenna Lab in Ramat Gan until it adopts new procedures for performance and quality control of its AIDS tests.

Earlier this month, Ma'ariv, disclosed that an HIV carrier it had sent to check six private testing labs had been told by two that he was perfectly healthy. The two were the Tenna Lab and the American Medical Laboratories at the Herzliya Medical Center. Another lab, Medibat in Tel Aviv, violated ministry rules by informing the young man over the phone that he was an HIV carrier, Ma'ariv said.

The ministry found that the wrong results by the American Medical Laboratories resulted from a "human error" in copying answers into the computer.

This would have been discovered a day or two later by the lab and the carrier would have been informed, according to a three-member committee appointed by Matza to investigate the disclosure. The committee's check of the Ramat Gan lab found violations of standard procedures and the lack of quality control, registration of customers and documentation of tests.

HIV tests are conducted free in most of the public general hospitals, and according to the ministry, supervision of procedures there is very strict. Anyone who was tested on November 10 (the date the newspaper's emissary went) at the Tenna Lab will be asked to repeat the test at a ministry-recognized lab, the ministry said. Asked whether the ministry recommended that anyone who had undergone testing at Tenna and felt uncertain should go elsewhere for re-testing, ministry spokesman Effie Lahav said the ministry did not want to scare people.

He did not say why only that date was chosen, and not a longer period, even though the lab was found in general to be violating accepted procedures. Matza also instructed the ministry's lab division to carry out more careful supervision of the private labs. He further plans a meeting to discuss procedures for informing those with positive test results.

Meanwhile, before International AIDS Day, which will be observed on Sunday, the ministry released the latest AIDS statistics. In 1995, 178 new carriers were identified, while the expected figure for 1996 is expected to be 180. The rate of reported new carriers is about 15 per month and of new AIDS patients two or three per month.

### NEWS IN BRIEF

#### Bezeq to start 24-hour customer service

Bezeq's 166 (repair) and 199 (customer information) numbers will start operating round the clock beginning Sunday. Bezeq director-general Yitzhak Kaul said yesterday that until now, the two services have been manned by human operators from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. An interactive computer system will supply callers to 199 with information on services and rates and allow customers to order or cancel services as they wish. It was also decided that all Bezeq shops will be open from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. without a break. *Judy Siegel*

among 60 contestants from all over the world. *Helen Kaye*

#### Gluska, Kupferman win Yad Vashem art prizes

Artists Abaroo Gluska and Moshe Kupferman won the Zussman Prize from Yad Vashem for art dealing with the Holocaust. Gluska's work is in photography. Kupferman is a Holocaust survivor. *Helen Kaye*

#### MDA to reintroduce medics to babies they delivered

Magen David Adom is looking for babies who were delivered by MDA medics in ambulances or in their mother's home. The intention is to bring the two together at the organization's next annual assembly. Anyone who was delivered by an MDA staffer during the organization's 65-year history is asked to send details to the MDA spokesman at 60 Rehov Yigal Alon, Tel Aviv 67062. *Judy Siegel*

#### Dancer Yuval Pik wins Paris prize

Israeli dancer Yuval Pik won the Grand Prix and Gold Medal at the Concours International de Danse de Paris for his solo performance of choreographer Ohad Naharin's *Pas de Dick*. Pik danced with the Batsheva Dance Company for six seasons. Last summer, he left the company for Finland, where he now dances in the Finnish National Ballet. Pik won the Grand Prix in addition to his gold medal, placing first

# Bar Association head criticized for attack on Supreme Court

EVELYN GORDON

SHARP criticism of the Supreme Court by Bar Association chairman Dror Hoter-Yishai aroused an angry reaction from all sides of the political spectrum yesterday.

Both Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Justice Minister Tzahi Hanegbi rejected his criticism.

"The court is an institution which plays a vital role in the democratic fabric of the state of Israel, and there is no place for unrestrained attacks on the institution or its justices," Netanyahu said in a press statement.

"Criticism of the pace of the courts' work or the judges' productivity is legitimate, but it should be measured, balanced and substantive," Hanegbi said. "Categorical accusations against all the judiciary's activities, or against the entire Supreme Court or against the Supreme Court president personally, are unacceptable—especially when they come from the head of the Bar Association."

Hanegbi rejected Hoter-Yishai's charge that the High Court of Justice intrudes too much into governmental decisions, saying judicial review of government activity is essential to a democracy.

MK Ran Cohen (Meretz) asked the police to open a criminal investigation of Hoter-Yishai, on suspicion that he violated a law forbidding denigration of the judiciary.

The Movement for Quality Government in Israel asked Hanegbi to suspend Hoter-Yishai from the committee on appointing judges, saying a man with such low regard for the judiciary should not be choosing its members.

Hoter-Yishai's criticism of the court came in an interview with the haredi paper *Yated Ne'eman*, in which he said the court had

become so concerned with justice that it was neglecting its responsibilities to the law.

"It is forbidden for a court to do justice," he said. "A court must do law... The most dangerous thing that can happen to a court is for a judge to be free to do whatever he wants and with questions it should not be involved in—such as the decision to close Rehov Bar-Ilan—that it is neglecting its real work."

"Now the court is saying, 'I'm overworked and exhausted and I barely have time to hear cases, and I no longer have the patience to hear cases,'" he said. "I don't know if you're aware of what's happening there today: 25 appeals a day are heard. It's a joke. Who can rule on 25 cases? Who can even read 25 cases? And we're talking about life-and-death issues! This is simply scandalous!"

Hoter-Yishai also said he thought the High Court of Justice should be part of the lower court system rather than the Supreme Court, just as it is in almost every other country with a High Court. The anomalous situation in Israel is a holdover from the British Mandate, since the British did not trust local judges, and therefore wanted criticism of the regime confined to the British-staffed Supreme Court. However, Hoter-Yishai said, this system severely damages the legal norm whereby a lower court hears evidence and decisions can then be appealed.

"One goes to the High Court of Justice immediately... and there is no appeal from it, and it doesn't hear witnesses," he said. "And this, of course, has the side effect of making the Supreme Court feel that it runs the country, because everything comes to it."

Even worse, he said, is the court's penchant for ruling on the reasonableness of a decision, rather than merely its legality.

"If you begin to examine the reasonableness and appropriateness [of a decision], you're essentially saying 'I am in charge,' because you're putting your judgment in place of [the government's] judgment," he said.

The result, he said, is that the court is so busy with questions it should not be involved in—such as the decision to close Rehov Bar-Ilan—that it is neglecting its real work.

"Now the court is saying, 'I'm overworked and exhausted and I barely have time to hear cases, and I no longer have the patience to hear cases,'" he said. "I don't know if you're aware of what's happening there today: 25 appeals a day are heard. It's a joke. Who can rule on 25 cases? Who can even read 25 cases? And we're talking about life-and-death issues! This is simply scandalous!"

Hoter-Yishai also sharply criticized the justices for spending too much time giving lectures, writing books and attending seminars, instead of doing the work for which they are paid: judging.

The result is that cases often go for years before they are heard, which is a perversion of justice, he said.

Na'amat Chairperson Ofra Friedman joined the attacks on Hoter-Yishai yesterday, saying she was ashamed to be a member of a Bar Association whose head mocks the basic legal values of democracy and the system of law and order. She called on lawyers to form an alternative organization and to suspend Hoter-Yishai.

## Show-cause order against Mandatory police benefits

EVELYN GORDON

THE High Court of Justice issued a show-cause order this week against a National Labor Court decision that people who served in the British Mandate's police force are eligible for benefits under the Demobilized Soldiers Law.

The order was issued in response to a petition by the National Insurance Institute, which is concerned about the decision's financial implications.

Though the NII is not asking for a refund of the almost NIS 1 million the court required it to pay in back benefits to two Arab families in Tel Sheva, it does not want to have to pay the same to the hundreds of other families who would be eligible under this ruling.

While money was the motive for the appeal, the petition also argued that the ruling is legally absurd and distorts the purpose of the law. The law is meant to reward people who have devoted part of their lives to Israel's defense, the petition said. It therefore covers not only people who served in the IDF, but policemen, border policemen and members of the pre-state military organizations. However, the petition said, it is ridiculous to

think that Israel intended to extend these benefits to people who served a foreign power controlling this land.

Under this ruling, the petition said, Israel would theoretically have to pay benefits to people who have no connection to the state at all, such as British subjects who did a stint in the Mandatory police.

"The Mandatory police cannot be considered a precursor of the Israeli police, the petition continued; it not only served a different government—one which was sometimes hostile to the nascent state of Israel—but it also operated within different borders.

The Labor Court ruling was issued in response to a 1992 suit by the families of Abu Amra Abdel Aziz, who served in the Mandatory police from 1944-48, and Abu Amra Ahalil, who served from 1937-47. The former was awarded NIS 702,123 for his 20 children and 81 grandchildren, as the size of the payments is a function of the number of children. The latter received NIS 208,722 for his eight children and 40 grandchildren.

## Cellcom, Pelephone, Hamashbir to sell teachers cellphones

A NIS 26 million deal was signed yesterday at the Teachers' Association with Cellcom, Pelephone and Hamashbir Lezarchan to supply annual gifts to the union's 100,000 members.

Initially, Cellcom believed they would be the exclusive supplier of the phones.

The deal includes a message ser-

vice that allows teachers to collect messages when the phone is turned off during classes and caller identification.

The phones will be supplied from December through April. A week ago, the high school teachers' association signed a deal with Pelephone to supply its members with cellular phones.

The phones will be provided as holiday gifts to the teachers at the expense of the unions and the Education Ministry. *Judy Siegel*

## Poll: Israelis trust Supreme Court more than Knesset, government

THE public has far more faith in the Supreme Court than it does in either the Knesset or the government, according to a Gallup poll conducted over the past few days.

The poll, commissioned by Army Radio, found that 83 percent of the public expressed faith in the court, while only 4% said they did not trust it. The remainder were undecided.

According to Gallup, the 4% who expressed distrust all were haredim.

In contrast, only one-third of the public has faith in the Knesset, and 28% in the government. About 20% said they distrusted the Knesset, while 25% distrusted the government. Some 45% were undecided in both cases.

According to Gallup, most of those who expressed faith in the Knesset were from the lower-income and less-educated classes. (Itm)

## Interior Ministry agrees to postpone deporting weightlifter Ivanovsky

LIAT COLLINS

THE Interior Ministry has agreed to the Knesset Aliya and Absorption Committee's request to postpone implementing the deportation order against weightlifter Vacislav Ivanovsky until the committee finishes discussing the issue next week.

Yosef Tov, head of the ministry's population registry department, said the deportation order had been issued and Interior Minister Eli Shniss, who has complained that the committee should not even discuss this case as Ivanovsky clearly broke the law, did not attend the session but sent senior representatives instead.

Yosef Tov, head of the ministry's population registry department, said the deportation order had been issued and

Ivanovsky's citizenship rescinded after serious deliberations. He said the ministry constantly bears heartbreaking stories but has to act on professional and relevant criteria.

Ivanovsky said he feels Israeli in every way and wants to remain here, serve in the army and convert. His brother also lives here.

Yisrael Ba'aliya MKs Marina Solodkin and Yuri Stern called for the ministry to be more flexible and said the deportation would affect immigration and Israeli-Russian relations.

Stern said Ivanovsky should be punished for breaking the law, but not deported.

Stern also said that the weightlifter's athletic career would effectively be ended if he were returned to Russia because, after having represented Israel, he would be ineligible to compete at international events, including the Atlanta Olympics, which can last for four years.

## Public Defender's Office to be nationwide within 2 years

EVELYN GORDON

THE Public Defender's Office will operate nationwide by the end of 1998, Justice Ministry Director-General Nili Arad told the Knesset Law Committee yesterday.

The office, which opened earlier this year, currently operates only in the Tel Aviv area. A month ago, the committee had demanded to know the ministry's timetable for making it nationwide.

Arad said the ministry plans to expand the office to Jerusalem and the southern region next year, and then to Haifa and the North in 1998.

She also said that from next year, defense attorneys working for the office will be paid out of the Justice Ministry's budget, just as prosecutors are. At present, salaries in the Public Defender's Office are paid out of the courts administration budget. The result was a severe financial crisis for the office earlier this year.

Committee chairman Shaul Yahalom (National Religious Party) praised the decision to expand the office's service to the rest of the country, but said he was concerned that so many people are still not eligible for its services.

A public defender is mandatory only for someone facing a prison sentence of 10 years or more, or for children under 16, the deaf, the blind and the mentally ill. The

courts may also appoint a public defender in cases where the defendant is facing a sentence of five to 10 years in prison, but this is not mandatory. Thus even after the service becomes nationwide, Yahalom said, 30% of those indicted and 70% of those facing remand hearings will not be represented by a lawyer.

Yahalom therefore asked the ministry to consider changing the

eligibility requirements, so that even people facing sentences of less than five years could have access to a public defender.

"Our goal is to rapidly reach a state in which every person facing a criminal trial or a remand hearing will have legal representation," he said.

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## Priebke moved to Rome military jail

ROME (Reuters) - Former SS captain Erich Priebke has been transferred from a civilian to military jail to await a second war crimes trial in Italy, lawyers said yesterday.

The 83-year-old German was quietly returned to Rome's Forte Boccea military prison one week ago after spending about four months at the city's civilian prison Regina Coeli, they said.

Priebke, who was extradited to Italy from Argentina one year ago, faces a second trial over his involvement in Italy's worst wartime atrocity - the SS massacre of 335 men and boys at the Ardeatine Caves near Rome in March 1944.

His first trial ended in uproar on August 1 when a military court found him guilty of complicity in murder, but said he should be freed citing extenuating circumstances and the expiry of a statute of limitations.

Angry protesters laid siege to the courthouse, trapping Priebke, his lawyer and judges inside.

They dispersed only after Priebke was re-arrested and taken to Regina Coeli on a warrant issued when Germany indicated it wanted to extradite him for a war crimes trial there.

The verdict was later overturned on appeal and a new military trial ordered, for which no date has been set yet.

Priebke's prison transfer came

to light yesterday when Rome appeals court judges, who are considering Germany's extradition request, held a hearing at the military prison.

Court officials would not say what happened during the closed-door hearing, but Italian news agencies have reported that Priebke planned to testify and ask to be sent to Germany.

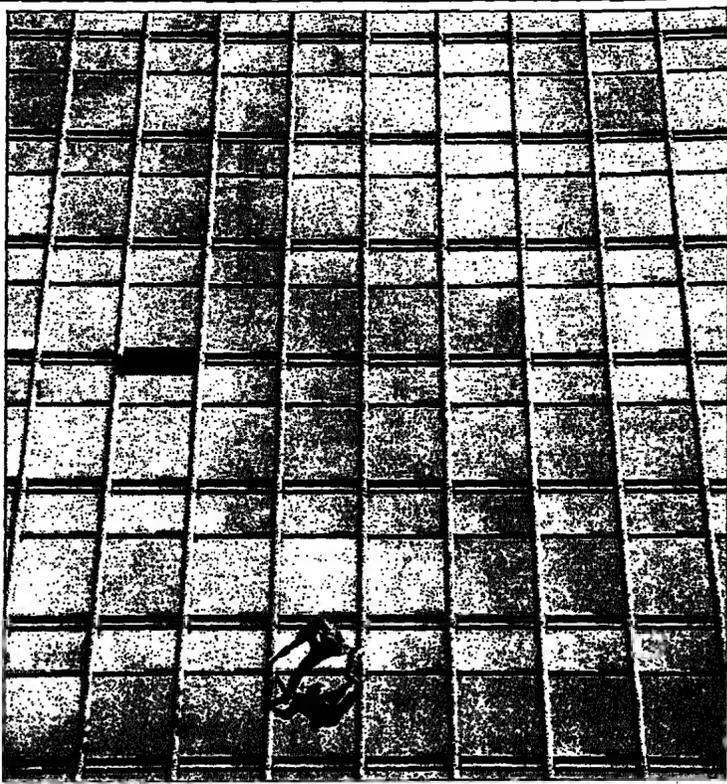
Lawyers have previously said the German request would be set aside until after Priebke's second trial in Italy.

Vello di Rezzo, who represented Priebke at his first trial, said in a telephone interview on Wednesday that he had been fired by Priebke. "They want to hold a political trial which I won't do," the lawyer said, declining to elaborate.

Priebke recently added to his team prominent defence lawyer Carlo Taormina, who has represented several defendants in Italy's recent political graft scandals.

Priebke, who spent his first eight months in Italy at Forte Boccea prison, has admitted he took part in the Ardeatine Caves massacre, shooting two of the victims and marking off oases from a list.

The massacre was ordered in retaliation for a partisan bomb attack in Rome which killed 33 members of the German occupying force. Priebke's defence is that he had to follow orders or be killed himself.



Alain Robert, nicknamed 'French Spiderman' climbs the 48-story Far East Finance Center in Hong Kong yesterday. Robert, 34, from Paris, took about 26 minutes to scale the golden-mirrored skyscraper 'freestyle', using no equipment. He was arrested by police after successfully reaching the roof. (Reuters)

## Terje Larsen resigns after month in Norwegian government

OSLO (AP) - Former Middle East peace broker Terje Rood Larsen resigned as Norway's planning minister yesterday following weeks of criticism of his investments.

Larsen brokered the Oslo talks between Israel and the Palestinians that led to the 1993 Oslo Agreements and tried to broker a Hebrew redeployment deal in October. He stepped down as UN peace envoy to the Middle East last month to join the Norwegian government as Minister of Planning and Reform.

At a news conference yesterday, Larsen denied any wrongdoing, but said he was stepping down to avoid 'burdening' Thorbjorn

Jagland, who became prime minister on October 25.

"Out of concern for the government, I have today delivered my letter of resignation," he said.

The most serious claim is that Larsen might have violated tax rules in a complex stock option deal that gave him a \$95,000 profit in 1987. Larsen has asked national tax authorities to re-audit his 1987 tax returns.

The allegation had been reported years earlier, along with a report that as director of a labor-movement research institute, Larsen once was late in delivering its financial accounts to the government.

Newspaper editorials and some

opposition leaders had said confidence in Larsen was so shaken that he could not continue in office.

"This is not about a tax case. This is about confidence in a government minister," said Per Kristian Foss of the opposition Conservative Party.

At his news conference, Larsen said it had been hard to defend himself against the old allegations. "When I arrived... a month ago, I was full of expectations," said Larsen. "This has been a very difficult period for me and the government."

Larsen also said he welcomed a decision by the National Economic Crime Unit to investigate his case.

## Few vote as 50,000 protesters storm through Belgrade streets

BELGRADE (AP) - Rock-throwing protesters shattered windows at state TV and a pro-government daily in a ninth day of protests against Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic.

About 50,000 people gathered to protest by courts controlled by the Serbian president to annul local elections won by Milosevic's foes. The courts ordered new voting to take place yesterday, but few people turned out.

The attack with bricks and rocks on media outlets loyal to Milosevic increased the tension in the Yugoslav capital.

Demonstrators also turned their wrath on the US, which they accuse of supporting the authoritarian Milosevic in exchange for his help implementing the Dayton peace agreement in neighboring Bosnia. They burned a US flag in front of the American Embassy and carried banners reading "US Serves Communists."

Milosevic's foes regard him and his Socialist Party backers as unreformed Communists.

About 1,000 heavily armed policemen blocked a long column of protesters from marching to the Dedinje district of Belgrade, where Milosevic lives.

Wednesday was the first time in nearly a week and a half of

protests that demonstrators pelted hurled stones. On Tuesday they had used eggs, tomatoes and bags of red liquid.

They shattered the glass exterior walls of the Politika newspaper, which is controlled by Milosevic, and windows of state TV - which Milosevic has used throughout his rule to support his regime.

A big trash container was rolled into the lobby of the downtown Politika publishing house.

In contrast, the only independent radio station in Belgrade, Radio B92, suddenly went off the air. While media controlled by Milosevic have ignored the protests, B92 has carried reports.

B92 reporters said they didn't know why the radio went off the air, but assumed it was being jammed. An independent daily, Blic, reported having its press run limited by a state-run printer.

Turnout appeared extremely low in the recent local election, apparently because of the opposition's call for a boycott. Weather was cold and snowy.

Some polling stations were virtually deserted, and mostly elderly people were seen voting as the students joined by others marched through Belgrade protesting Milosevic's cancellation of elections.

## Talks resume in French truckers strike

PARIS (Reuters) - Striking French truck drivers and employers resumed talks yesterday as the government expressed optimism that a deal to end 10-day-old dispute slowly strangling the French economy could be reached within hours.

Truck drivers' unions, employers and government mediator Robert Cros resumed talks yesterday afternoon with union demands for pay hikes still to be resolved.

But unions, who said several issues were outstanding, maintained 218 roadblocks on France's highways that have forced fuel rationing in some areas, closed some factories and cut supplies of perishable goods ranging from fish to fruit.

In a 20-hour overnight session which ended earlier on Wednesday, union and government officials said they made substantial progress on two of the truckers' key demands, retirement at 55 instead of 60 and shorter working hours.

"We are pursuing our efforts on the pay issue so that we can quickly reach an agreement," Transport Minister Bernard Pons, who has been following the talks for the government, told the National Assembly at question time.

"We are making progress and we are on the verge of ending the crisis," he said, adding that the interests of both haulage firms and their employees were important to the economy.

The strike and a parallel one in Denmark sent waves of agitation throughout other European countries, clogging highways and ports and disrupting commerce.

In neighbouring Germany, the strikes threatened to disrupt production at Volkswagen AG, Europe's largest carmaker, and hampered delivery of fresh fruit, vegetables,

fish, spirits and gourmet foods from France, Scandinavia, Spain and elsewhere.

Thousands of drivers from Britain, Spain, Germany and other countries were ensnared by the blockades without enough food or money and growing tension led to sometimes violent confrontations with French truckers.

Prime Minister Alain Juppe called for continued pressure for a quick deal.

"He noted that the talks had progressed greatly and wanted pressure to be kept up on the two sides so that a final accord can be reached quickly," Government spokesman Alain Lamassoure said after a weekly cabinet meeting.

"Things have moved forward," said Roger Poletti of the Force Ouvriere union.

"During the night, an important agreement was reached on the two main demands," said mediator Cros.

The first point was that workers with 25 years' experience would be allowed to retire at 55 rather than 60. From 57.5 years, the state would help fund the retirement benefits.

There was agreement, too, on reduced working hours, he said. Paris would trim payroll charges on companies cutting working hours.

Marc Blondel, FO's general secretary, said employers must agree to pay drivers for loading time and compulsory rest periods on the road if the dispute was to be settled.

The drivers are also demanding a 10 percent pay rise and shorter working hours.

The strike is a key test for conservative Juppe, who is battling to keep down state spending and whose approval rating is at an all-time low.

### Slovak pensioners smile after stolen dentures recovered

BRATISLAVA (Reuters) - The mystery surrounding the theft of several sets of false teeth from a Bratislava seniors' home was partially solved when a shoe box containing the dentures was found, the TASR news agency reported yesterday.

But TASR added that the thief, who reportedly stole the teeth from their overnight glasses, remained at large.

TASR said that once the box was found, the owners of the teeth were grinning from ear to ear, though some only after trying on several sets to identify which were actually theirs.

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Dec. 5 In the region settled by the tribe of Judah, the moabites and kibbutzim still retain their rustic atmosphere. We'll visit Mitspe Mass'ah, Beit Jamal monastery, the Avshalom cave of stalagmites and stalactites, the Filov's memorial and more. Come and immerse yourself in the history of both Judaism and Christianity.

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#### Sunday ON THE TRAIL OF BAR KOCHBA

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#### Thursday THE GALILEE - PEOPLE AND PLACES

Jan. 9 Jews, Arabs, Christians, Druze, Beduin, Circassians - living together in a spectacular Mediterranean landscape make the Galilee the interesting place it is. Our tour will take us to Kanafeh, Hazart, Yodfat, Shorashim, Saknin and Eshbar - a mosaic of human scenery living in an ideal setting. We'll meet the people and see the sites.

NIS 185 (including lunch)

Tour guide: Mark Kosenstein

#### Thursday TU BISHVAI, MAN AND EARTH

Jan. 23 On this special day, we'll visit the places and people who continue the traditions of centuries with the use of medicinal herbs, plants, berries, trees and even learn from the animals in the region. We'll be in the Galilee and we'll meet the experts in the Druze village of Yezho, Yanzuch and Deir Hana with its 2,400 year old olive trees. We'll hear from Hamzi Arada and Wahid Masadi and come away a lot wiser.

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## North Korea releases American in time for Thanksgiving

YOKOTA AIR BASE, Japan (Reuters) - A young American detained in North Korea for three months as a spy flew to freedom yesterday after paying a hotel bill of about \$5,000 but no fine, the congressman who negotiated his release said.

A weary-looking Carl Evan Hunziker raised his arms in a victory salute when he stepped from a US Air Force plane that flew him from the North Korean capital of Pyongyang to this US air base on the outskirts of Tokyo.

Congressman Bill Richardson, a close confidant of President Bill Clinton, said his trip not only freed Hunziker but gave him renewed hope that Pyongyang was ready again to work at decreasing tension on the Korean Peninsula.

"He (Hunziker) said he was treated in a humanitarian fashion by the North Koreans," Richardson told reporters.

Richardson said it appeared the North Korean military was against releasing Hunziker but in the end

they went along with freeing him.

After undergoing medical tests, Hunziker, who did not give a news conference, was scheduled to fly to the US later in the day to be home in time for today's Thanksgiving holiday.

Richardson, who in 1994 negotiated the release of a US Air Force helicopter pilot shot down when he strayed into North Korean air space near the border with South Korea, said the US gave nothing in return for Hunziker's release.

Hunziker, who his family says is a missionary, was detained by North Korea near the border with China on August 24 when he crossed the Yalu River separating the two countries.

He was held on charges of espionage and illegal entry.

The United States, South Korea and Hunziker's family have all denied he is a spy and say he accidentally strayed into North Korea while on a visit to China.

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# Microbrewing brings beer boom to land of milk and honey

JESSICA STEINBERG

**B**REWING beer is a friendly business. Walk into someone's home when they've just finished bottling a fresh batch, and they'll sit you down, bring out a couple of bottles, perhaps a plate of pickled almonds or green olives, and you can while the afternoon away, tasting beer and debating the merits of Belgian versus American hops.

Of course, liking beer is essential for enjoying the experience. For beer lovers, the last six years have been a boon. Both the home brewing and microbrewery industries have boomed, producing smaller quantity, higher quality lagers, ales and stouts for an increasingly discerning beer-drinking public. According to a recent article in *Bon Appetit*, there are 536 brew pubs in the US, and at the last Great American Beer Festival in San Francisco, 35,000 people participated, tasting 1,400 different beers. And you can be sure that they weren't drinking Budweiser.

Good beer is old news to the Europeans, but it's a fairly new trend in the States, and it's quickly catching on here, too. The numbers don't quite match up with what two retail breweries, one microbrewery and a handful of home brewers - yet those in the know are serious about their beers, and they're even more serious about spreading the word.

In the town of Talba, just down the hill from Ramallah, sits the Talba brewery, brainchild of Nadim Khoury, who recently returned to his hometown after 18

years in Boston. The \$1.2 million factory - a three-way partnership of Nadim, his father and his brother - can produce 5,000 bottles an hour, with room to grow, but that's not necessarily the goal of their business. "To me, there's an art and a science to producing quality beer," says Khoury, an affable 36-year-old father of four. "It's a challenge to educate people about good beer and it's my mission to open Middle East minds to what I'm doing."

Khoury has been developing his recipe for 15 years, but he harbors no secrets about its ingredients. He uses fresh spring water, Czech and Bavarian hops, Belgian malt, and organic yeast, creating a quality ale that he feels can compete with the heavier lagers.

What are the actual differences between ales and lagers? In ales, the yeast ferments from the top and doesn't require cold temperatures, while lagers ferment from the bottom and are kept cold. The kosher-certified, 5 percent alcoholic beverage is light and full-bodied, a beer that "won't scare people away. People have been brainwashed and mouthwashed," Khoury comments, "into drinking inferior beers. They say, 'Oh, I only drink Goldstar, never Macabee.' But they're just drinking monthlong preservatives."

His beer companions agree. David and Revital Zaslav, Nir Navot, and Gity Kryger are all dedicated Israeli home brewers who happen to be science types as well, with various plans for expanding their cottage indus-



Nadim Khoury samples a pint of his latest batch of beer before it is shipped out from his West Bank brewery in Talba near Ramallah.

tries. But whether they're brewing smoked ales or honey meads, they all want to usher in the new beer philosophy to Israeli culture. "We're getting back to the basics," says David Zaslav, who

produces honey stouts and smoked ales with Revital Ben-David, his marine biologist wife, and Amir Ben-David, his physicist brother-in-law. "Israelis drink Heineken and they think that's special," he adds. "But we're something else entirely. No preservatives, no red stuff. Israeli tastebuds have to learn that there are beers and there are liquors. We're about beer."

**ACTUALLY**, the Zaslav-Ben David partnership isn't solely about beer. They brew mead and cider as well, mead being a sweet, full-bodied beverage somewhat similar to wine, with an 11% alcohol content and a history going back over 5,000 years, including a passionate following in the days of Geoffrey Chaucer's *Cantebury Tales* and Shakespeare's *England*.

In the Zaslav-Ben David pilot-scale microbrewery, specialty beers are also their trademark, with a herb brewed with cinnamon, vanilla and coriander and a smoked ale that is reminiscent of a rich, smoked cheese. Revital jokes that while her neighbors are out barbecuing prime cuts of beef, she and David keep watch over the malt smoking on their portable grill.

Brewing beers in a spectrum of flavors isn't a new concept created by the microbrewery industry; in fact, the Talmud discusses one beer made of barley, figs and blackberries, and another from barley and dates. Beer was popular among the Jews in Babylon and it was even used for ceremonial purposes such as the *havdala*

prayer at the end of Shabbat, although rabbis visiting from other lands were skeptical of such practices. But they accepted the beer, saying that beer seemed to be the wine of the land.

The current beer connoisseurs are all determined to bring beer back to these parts, as in the days of old. Nir Navot, a molecular biologist and geneticist by training, got involved with beer brewing when he stumbled upon an Internet discussion group several years ago. He started out using bread yeast from a local corner store, tucking a fermenting bucket of beer under his lab bench for his first batch. Since then, he's developed six different types of beers and recently won third place in a Washington D.C. competition for his ginger beer.

His plan for educating Israelis about beer is to open a brew pub in the Tel Aviv area, offering a variety of microbrews that will allow customers to taste test beers, from dark to light ales. "Israelis love to try new things," Navot explains, "and the market here is at the beginning of its potential. Sure, the commercial beers are good for what they are, but they're basic."

Gity Kryger agrees with Navot's assessment. A structural biologist at Weizmann who picked up on the beer craze while living in Boston (no, he didn't meet Nadim Khoury back then), Kryger dreams about opening a brewpub, but has downsized his dream due to costs. He also thinks that any Israeli brewpub has to be scaled to the Israeli-size mar-

ket. Most brew pubs in the States are seven-barrel operations, with each barrel containing about 120 liters of beer. The beer has to be drunk over the course of a month, because it won't last without the preservatives that are used by the commercial beers. "A brew-pub market must be based on the market availability," he says. "Israelis are curious and will try anything new, especially if it's from abroad. But the American brew pubs are based on an awareness within the population that we don't have here. The question is how to keep Israelis interested."

Kryger doesn't want to be the first one out there, nor does he plan to be. At this point, he's content with brewing beer for his own consumption, waiting for the others to roll out the proverbial barrel. The Zaslavs are the first ones among the set, besides Khoury, to have tested the homebrew waters of the Israeli population. They peddle their cider and mead at a monthly farmers' market outside Jerusalem, and they have plans to open a small brew pub and microbrewery on the grounds of a moshav in the greater Tel Aviv area.

Given the trend toward returning to the basics, the Zaslavs could be 20th-century reincarnations of their 16th-century counterparts, as Jews in many lands worked as tavern keepers, leasing breweries and distilleries to produce their beverages, as long as one Talmudic dictum is followed: "All things are better when old, except dates, small fishes ... and beer."

## The higher costs of keeping fit

**G**ETTING in shape is all the rage these days. Through more of us tend to contemplate it than actually do it, the market is bursting with every possible service relating to it. And judging by the "standing-room-only" scene, both in health clubs and in health-food stores, a huge number of consumers are out there spending large sums of hard-earned money in pursuit of it.

Unfortunately for most consumers who just happen to be human, it is more often than not the fantasy of external solutions to unwanted girth which is being bought. As such, this is one area in which customer satisfaction depends more on the dedication and will-power of the consumer, himself than on the quality of the goods or services he is paying for. It is thus that anyone who adheres to a diet plan and loses weight will rave about the plan proselytizing others in the process, while those who keep hitting the junk food will say it was a waste of money.

S.S. was told by her doctor to lose five kilos. Taking this admonition seriously, she made up her mind to embark upon an exercise program she would be able to "stick with." "After reading Dr. Reuven Bruner's columns [on health and fitness] in *In Jerusalem*," she wrote, "I decided to see if he could help me." According to S.S., Dr. Bruner answered her phone inquiry by describing his program: First, she was to come in for a consultation/evaluation - a two-to-three-hour session at the conclusion of which she would return home with forms to fill out, and some exercises to try. The forms included a log of everything she ate in the following few days.

### CAVEAT EMPTOR! RUTHIE BLUM

Next, she was to return to the doctor a week later to go over the results. The package, she was told, would cost the shkel equivalent of \$125. "Although this sounded expensive," she wrote, "I decided that if he could really give me a personalized exercise program ... it would be worth it."

So S.S. went to see Dr. Bruner, had the long session she had been promised, was given the forms to take home, and paid the fee. But then, unexpectedly, S.S. became ill. She phoned Dr. Bruner to inform him that she would not be able to begin.

Several weeks later, S.S. phoned the doctor again, to make her second appointment. She claims that he told her to bring exercise clothing to the session which also would last two to three hours - and an additional \$125. S.S. was livid. She had understood that the fee she had paid was going to cover both of these sessions. "If I had known at the start that this program was going to cost \$250, I wouldn't have come in the first place!" she complained both to Dr. Bruner and to me. "Now I am left \$125 poorer and with nothing to show for it - not even the results of the first assessment," she added.

S.S. feels that she is a victim of a scam, and asks if she has any recourse. Dr. Bruner responded by stressing that S.S. must have misunderstood his description of what the fee entailed. "I explain this program over and over, to many patients," he insisted, "and never before has anyone had this complaint."

According to him, though, each of the first two sessions costs \$125, they are extremely lengthy sessions. Furthermore, he claimed that he is available to his clients 24 hours a day, seven days a week, to respond to any questions related to the program. Regarding lengthier programs for those who wish to continue seeing him regularly over the course of six months, the fee per session is considerably less (something around \$50 per session). But this is only if a client indeed completes the whole program. Someone who attends a few sessions and decides to quit, must pay the full \$125 for each.

It is impossible to know whether S.S. had been told about the second fee. It is possible there was a misunderstanding. But her only recourse is to sue Dr. Bruner in small claims court. It is highly doubtful she would win such a suit. Article 2 of the Commodities and Services Law ("Prevention of Excessive Profits on Services") states: "Where a maximum remuneration has not been prescribed for any controlled service ... a person shall not perform ... such service for a remuneration exceeding a reasonable remuneration."

I imagine S.S. would be hard put to find any provider of a private service who charges a "more reasonable" fee per hour than that which she paid to Dr. Bruner. The moral of this consumer tale of woe is: Be extremely specific when questioning a potential service provider about what your fees include. Write down exactly what is stated prior to using the service. Regarding the lesson which Dr. Bruner and other providers of similar services can do to avoid future misunderstandings of this nature, having a written "contract" or information sheet for potential clients is always a good idea.

## All wrapped up for winter

FLAIR GREER FAY CASHMAN

**W**HILE children's clothes have for some years been pin-sized versions of what their parents were wearing, this winter youngsters will be much more rugged up than their parents - mainly because they spend more time in the open air.

Except for rugged outdoors sports gear, winter fashions for adults are well on the way to becoming obsolete.

Local designer Gideon Oberson forecast more than a decade ago that this would be the case, and modern technology has proved him right. Oberson's view then was that increased installation of controlled-temperature systems in public buildings and private homes would obviate the need for winter clothing for indoor wear, and that eventually coats would be the sole remnant of winter fashion.

The fashion industry is gradually moving in this direction, with lightweight fabrics for dresses, suits and pants and heavier fabrics plus zip-out warm linings for coats.

While this is how things are shaping up for adults, this is not yet the case for young fry, whose mothers, while refraining from keeping them in swaddling clothes, make sure that they're

wearing several layers of clothing and that their jackets are padded against the cold.

These over-anxious maternal precautions are based on fears of bronchial illnesses coupled with the fact that their little ones spend a lot of time in the school playground or the local park. Their clothes have to be warm enough to protect them from the elements and also have to be sturdy enough to withstand all the strain of boisterous child activity, and this applies not only to fabric, but to style.

In adult fashions for instance, stovetop leggings - yet another concession to retro - are currently in vogue. If children chasing each other around, falling over, climbing trees and so on, want to dress the same way, their leggings would soon develop holes in the knees.

So kids are wearing clothes which are much looser - almost to the extent of being disheveled - and just as importantly, clothes which in style and texture guarantee that they'll stay snugly warm. Childrenswear specialists Shilav are concentrating on sweats and overalls, while Ski-Pat has come out with highly colorful junior skiwear, not necessarily intended for snow-covered slopes.



Ski-Pat has come out with colorful junior skiwear, not necessarily intended for snow-covered slopes.

## BARGAIN BASEMENT

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  - CONSTRUCTA WASHING MACHINE - front loading, good condition, in need of slight repair, NIS 350 o.h.o. 02-523-8931.
  - CEILING FAN - 5-speed, NIS 150; Rockport shoes, light gray, 10 1/2 wide, NIS 160. 02-566-3271.
  - WASHING MACHINE - Amcor, excellent working condition, top loading, 5 kg. laundry, NIS 300. 02-533-5922.
  - ELECTRONIC TYPEWRITER - Canon portable, LCD display and top function, NIS 350. 02-648-0903.
  - PHOTOGRAPHER'S CLOTH PROTECTANT - white, used once, hemmed with top hooks, 3 x 16 meters, NIS 350. 02-581-0160.
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- 3371. NS. COLOR TV - NIS 350. 02-378989.
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## Money for survivors

THAT catchy little axiom may just be true: Be careful what you ask for — you might get it.  
The Swiss banks are reportedly giving some thought to settling the matter of the dormant Holocaust-era accounts. But they want to put the onus of approving or rejecting the individual claims of survivors and their heirs on world Jewry.  
This would not be the first time the world Jewish community was put in such an awkward position. When pressed about compensation for survivors who emigrated from the Soviet Union in the 1970s, Germany said no, because the original filing deadline for reparations had expired in 1969. Bonn later agreed to expand compensation, but only on the condition that the Claims Conference, a group comprised of representatives from Jewish communities worldwide, administer the program, under criteria established by the German government.  
The circumstances, of course, differ when it comes to the Swiss banks. Here the setting of criteria for accepting survivors' claims is difficult, if not almost impossible. Many claimants do not know the account numbers under which the money was placed, in whose name the deposits were made, the actual amounts or even which banks had the assets.  
These claims — several thousand of them — have posed a formidable challenge to the banks, and would be no less of one for the Jewish community. While the Claims Conference will be more sympathetic than the Swiss, who have stonewalled for decades on this issue, it is hard to imagine how many of these claims can be approved. To hear an heir say, "My father told me there was money in a Swiss bank," tears at heart strings, but does not help locate the assets.  
And claims aside, there also is the question of heirless assets, namely who should receive them and how they should be used.  
These sums could be substantial. Rumors about a settlement suggested amounts ranging from 100 million to 250 million Swiss francs. Clearly, some funds would come from the Swiss banks. Some may come from associations of lawyers, insurers and others who acted as the financial agents of the Jewish depositors.  
Whatever the final sum to be dispersed, it is unnecessary to reinvent the allocations wheel. The proper address for a settlement is the Claims Conference, which brings together 23 groups — including representatives of Israeli, British, French, American, Canadian, German, Australian and South African Jewry — all focused on serving survivors.  
To be sure, the Claims Conference has its detractors. They argue that it has not been

aggressive enough in negotiations with Germany and has settled for less than it should have. Destitute survivors, chafing under strict German eligibility requirements, assail the Claims Conference, which administers the compensation programs.  
However, the Claims Conference also has an impressive track record. In its 45 years, it has successfully negotiated with Germany for more than DM 80 billion in direct compensation for survivors and in funds that it allocated to institutions that assist survivors.  
The Claims Conference also has the broad representation, the expertise and the established mechanism to allocate staggering sums. By the end of 1997, for example, it will have allocated within two years more than DM 180 million, using funds from the sale of heirless Jewish property in the former East Germany to finance projects that benefit survivors.  
The Claims Conference's constituents include the Jewish Agency, the World Jewish Congress, the Joint Distribution Committee and the survivors' organizations from Israel and the US.  
They have competing interests and there will be a vigorous debate about how the funds should be used, such as for individual pensions, institutions or programs. The Jewish Agency is acting on behalf of Israel, which sees itself as the heir of the Jews who died and wants the funds spent here. (Israel is unlikely to be short-changed in the process, as the Claims Conference traditionally allocates 60 percent of the available funds to Israeli projects.) The JDC wants the funds spent on relief programs. The survivors have called for increased benefits for themselves.  
These are all legitimate, but the most pressing need is among the elderly of the former Soviet Union. Unlike many others, the survivors there have never received serious compensation from the German reparations programs, which do not cover survivors in the East bloc.  
For 45 years, they were protected by the Soviet social safety net, which collapsed along with the Communist regime. Communist services workers now are reaching only 70,000 of the 300,000 elderly, needy Jews in the former Soviet Union. The minimal level of care — to ensure that no Jew there would go hungry or cold — would cost about \$25 million a year. This is far less than the cost of caring for them in Israel or the West.  
It would be a fitting legacy if the assets of those who died in the Holocaust were used to sustain those who survived. When the Swiss settlement becomes a reality, we should recall what we are quick to tell others: For the survivors, time is running out.



## Yasser's hideaway

SINCE the beginning of the year surprisingly large numbers of reinforced iron bars and huge quantities of cement have been flowing into Gaza from Israel, to the deep gratification of those who claimed peace in the vastly overcrowded Strip would lead to prosperity boosted by a massive construction program.  
But the economy slumped and unemployment rose, causing puzzled frowns. Who was using all that iron and cement?  
Suddenly, last Thursday, came the answer — from Mira Avrech, matriarch of Israel's gossip columnists. Arafat, she revealed, is building a bunker in Gaza, four stories deep.  
Since the item was just the twittering of a gossip writer the paper didn't run the scoop on its front page. In fact, there was no further mention of it in any of the Hebrew media.  
Yet had the complacent Hebrew papers taken the trouble to check it out with any Israeli defense or intelligence source, they would have found out that Arafat isn't simply building himself a cozy underground den. Taking a leaf out of Saddam Hussein's book, he is building a chain of command centers, ammunition and weapons-storage areas below the surface of Gaza.  
This is the grandiose project to which much of the money sent to the Palestinian Authority by international donors has been channeled.  
Perhaps Mira Avrech's editors at *Yediot Aharonot* do not read her column and consequently didn't realize that what their columnist was prattling on about was in fact a powerful scoop.  
The indifference and complacency that exists in this country even among so-called strategists and experts, among journalists — and, it seems, in the government too — recalls nothing so much as that famous ostrich with its head buried deep in the sand.  
It brings to mind the mood in Britain when, in the late 1930s, London papers led by the august *Times* fed their readers with a diet of Neville Chamberlain-style appeasement of the Nazi regime in Germany, despite Winston Churchill's warnings.  
If the upper-class Fleet Street journalists of the day felt they had no real reason to distrust Adolf Hitler, that nice gentleman, our Israeli scribes and politicians can have no such excuse.  
We would like to refer the "trust

URI DAN  
DENNIS EISENBERG  
Arafat's school of thought to the Lebanon war, when the PLO leader constructed an underground network of buildings in the bowels of Beirut.  
From there, protected against Israeli artillery and air attacks, he conducted his war against the Jewish state. From there he organized his terrorist onslaught against northern Galilee settlements and towns and planned one provocative action after another.  
Small wonder, then, that this week OC Southern Command Shalom Yanai sensed the danger immediately when Arafat ordered his threatening blockade of Netzarim.  
Yanai understood that here was another attempt by the PLO leader to provoke a military confrontation, as he did so successfully last month when the Hasmonaean tunnel exit was opened in Jerusalem.  
The deaths of 15 Israeli soldiers and policemen proved how successful the PLO chief was.  
Arafat's agenda is the same as it was a decade and a half ago: war against the Jewish state.  
With the instincts of a terrorist he is burrowing underground in Gaza, as he did in Beirut, to protect himself and stockpile the weapons and ordnance he needs to wage a prolonged military campaign.  
His aim (reiterated less than a week ago) is jihad: to rid the Middle East of Israel then set himself up as president of an independent Palestine state.  
Is the Netanyahu government blind to what is going on under its collective nose?

Arafat is using vast quantities of Israeli-supplied cement to build himself an underground bunker network, just like Saddam Hussein

surrender Hebron to him.  
And indeed over a month ago the Israeli government — never mind President Clinton — was so confident this surrender was imminent that both parties were declaring the Hebron knot had been untied and saying that signing was just a formality.  
Foreign Minister David Levy proudly declared an agreement to be only hours away. The army too was certain of it. Under conditions of great secrecy it had prepared three firm alternative dates on which the withdrawal could take place.  
At the last minute Arafat pulled the rug out from under the Americans' and Israelis' feet by unexpectedly flying off to Europe.  
Netanyahu, still believing an agreement was on the cards, canceled a US trip to Seattle, where he was not only to have addressed the leaders of American Jewry but also to have met with powerful industrialists and money men concerning investment in Israel.  
Arafat uses one sticking point after another to stall the Hebron agreement. First he declines to allow Israeli troops to go after fleeing terrorists in hot pursuit. Then he gives the thumbs-down sign to the idea that the IDF has the right to enter Palestinian areas to preempt terrorist attacks against Jewish targets.  
Next Sunday Binyamin Netanyahu is to visit Europe; but nervous aides are wondering what spanner Arafat is likely to throw into the works in a bid to show who is really master of events in this corner of the Middle East.  
And all the while the PLO leader goes on building his underground bunker web.  
Unlike Menachem Begin, who in 1982 determined to uproot Arafat from his underground headquarters, nobody seems to give a fig about what is being constructed in Gaza with Israeli-supplied cement and iron, an hour's drive south of Tel Aviv.  
Trembling English journalists and politicians preached "peace in our time" in 1958-9, as the drums of war thundered. The appeasement at the heart of the Oslo "peace" accords, now focused on Hebron, soon on Jerusalem, reverberates just as loudly to those who will listen.  
The writers are authors of *The Mossad: Secrets of the Israeli Secret Service and other books on the Middle East*.

## Numbers game

LARRY DERFNER  
ISRAEL may be fast on its way to becoming the most crowded country on earth, but no matter.  
This is the centennial year of Zionism and our Zionist goal for the next decade, say our president and prime minister, is to attract a majority of the world's Jews to the Jewish state.  
Fifty percent minus one won't do. It must be 50 percent plus one. Then we'll be able to declare victory. We'll have not only a qualitative edge over the Arabs, but also a quantitative edge over the Diaspora.  
Sometimes it seems like the modern Western world has passed Israel by.  
Other nations have come to a pretty clear understanding that growth has its limits, that people need some space to move around in, some nature to look at in order to live healthy lives.  
But not us. We don't like it that the Galilee and Negev are relatively empty. It's a sign of failure. It's especially galling that the Israeli Arabs outnumber us in the Galilee.  
So the Housing Ministry has come up with an idea called "Judaizing the Galilee" — building masses of houses and apartment buildings in the north and filling them with Jews, so we'll have a Zionist majority not just in Israel, but in every region of Israel.  
We've got to get the numbers. This is how we measure success in the Zionist enterprise, by how many Jews we can fit into this place.  
A hillside may be nice, but it's not really serious. You can't quantify it. Basically, it's going to waste until it's covered with red roofs and roads and shopping centers filled with Jews.  
Numbers, we've got to get the numbers.  
Right after the Netanyahu government came in, the settlers presented their plan to put 500,000 Jews in the West Bank and Gaza over the next four years.  
Goals and timetables. Another settlement, another Zionist victory; two more settlements, two more Zionist victories.  
When Yitzhak Shamir was prime minister and the giant Russian aliyah began, I always had the feeling that he got a tremendous kick out of counting off the 100,000th Russian immigrant, then the 200,000th, but that he wasn't overly concerned about how they did once they got here. He was mainly looking forward to No. 300,000.  
What other country has leaders who think like this?  
Actually, I can think of one — the nascent Palestinian state.  
Yasser Arafat has said more than a few times that his "secret weapon is the Palestinian womb." Beyond this, he intends to cover the West Bank and Gaza with his own diaspora. How they will live is not important for now. Get them here, so we'll have three million Palestinians, then four million.  
Eventually, with the Israeli Arabs, we'll outnumber the Jews, and then who knows what the future might bring?  
JEWS and Arabs alike, we're all nuts.  
Breed, immigrate, fill up the space — that's all that matters

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### SCIENTIFIC MEDICINE

Sir, — I write to express solidarity with Dr. Anthony S. Luder ("Complementary medicine," *Letters*, November 22) with whom I share both training in and commitment to "scientific medicine." I am in complete agreement that "pandering to superstition, rumor, ignorance, prejudice and other emotional extremes is no way to develop medicine," just as pandering for pharmaceutical and technological propaganda and their representatives is similarly counterproductive to restoring health to the sick, the purpose, as I understand it, of medical practice.  
But I wonder whether "the common citizen" with his cellular phone and PC gigabytes (see Herb Kellon, *Out There*, November 22) is really so alienated from modern technology and if his "rush to non-medical therapy" may also be motivated at least in part by a fear of inappropriate, dangerous, costly technological and non-scientific "medicine." Science, as Dr. Luder correctly points out, "is an approach to the search for objectivity and testable observations" and has nothing to do (per se) with high, or any other kind of, technology. In fact, the profound psycho-neuro-immunological benefits of a kind word, a sensitive touch, a correctly placed acupuncture needle, or an accurately applied homeopathic remedy, can be and have been shown to be, in both humans and animal models, both testable and reproducible, and may thus represent true "scientific medicine" in its purest and most unadorned form.  
"Complementary medicine," as Dr. Luder's letter suggests, is a woeful misnomer. Rather, the minimally interventionist forms of therapy: dietary and lifestyle changes, laying on of hands, intercessory prayer, acupuncture and homeopathy, should form the bulk of our everyday practice and first line of defense. In exceptionally difficult and emergency cases, high-technology surgery, computerized radiography and chemical drugs comprise an extremely welcome and appropriate complementary alternative.  
EPHRAIM LANSKY, M.D.  
Haifa.

### BOMB IN EASTERN JERUSALEM

Sir, — I was very disturbed upon reading an article by Bill Hutman entitled "Small bomb explodes outside eastern Jerusalem Interior Ministry office" (November 8). It is sad that, when a bomb explodes in Arab East Jerusalem and when the victims are Palestinian, the bomb suddenly becomes small and thus insignificant. Human completely misses the point and succeeds in minimizing the significance of this act of terror. This is again, because the bomb was aimed at killing Palestinians — whose lives Israelis see as insignificant and worthless as compared to Jewish lives. Hutman exemplifies this attitude, using phrases like "very lightly injuring and 'slightly damaged.'" Had this bomb exploded in West Jerusalem, it would not have been so "small" and the injuries so "light." All Palestinians would have been labeled terrorist and murderers, and the territories sealed shut in an act of collective punishment of the Palestinian people. The bomb, no matter how small, would have made front-page headlines and the Israeli public would have been in an uproar.  
Prominent is the article's deliberate omission of the word "terrorism." Not surprisingly, there are no suspects, just as there are no leads in the supposed investigation of an earlier bomb this year at the same location. And, I doubt there is any real effort to find them. This is because, when an Israeli kills a Palestinian, there is always some explanation to validate this taking of a life. Israeli public sympathy is such that a Palestinian death is always justifiable, and an attack upon Israeli lives, is always senseless.  
MS. RAWAN ABDELRAZEK  
Jerusalem.

### MEMORIAL DAY

Sir, — I would like to add my voice to the controversy concerning a Rabin Memorial Day.  
On July 25, 1934, Austrian prime minister Dr. Engelbert Dollfuss was murdered by Austrian Nazis whilst sitting in his Vienna office. As of July 25, 1935, a memorial day was held for Dollfuss until the entry of the Germans in 1938. A postage stamp was issued every year on this occasion. Although the Nazis who murdered Dollfuss did not stain their aim, i.e. to set up a Nazi regime in Austria, the shock the people suffered was serious indeed.  
When comparing both murders I can safely state, having lived through both events, that the number of people opposed to the murder in our country is considerably greater than in Austria in 1934.  
HARRY DAJAN  
Petah Tikva.

### THE JERUSALEM RELIGIOUS COUNCIL

Sir, — It is ridiculous for the religious establishment to oppose the appointment of a Conservative or Reform rabbi to the Jerusalem Religious Council.  
The city council appoints 45 percent of the local religious council and the remaining members are appointed by the rabbinic and the religious affairs minister. Among those appointed by the city council are people who are not "observant" Jews, or who are even "non-believers," by "Orthodox" standards. Yet, there is no objection by the religious establishment to these members and no inquiry as to their beliefs or practices.  
I would venture to say that the attitude of the Conservative and Reform rabbis on the religious council could be more positive and helpful than that of those "other" people, in certain instances.  
STANLEY LEVIN  
Petah Tikva.

## PICTURE POSTSCRIPT



It's not what you expect to see — or hear — at the Vatican. Jerusalem's David Perkins blows his shofar from the edge of the roof of the Vatican's Basilica to the famous square below. (David Perkins)

## POSTSCRIPT

QUEBEC'S HATRED of the English language keeps hitting new lows.  
According to Yoram Hamizrahi, who reports from Canada for *Moray*, a committee monitoring the use of French in Quebec made a case against a two-year-old talking parrot that speaks only English and knows how to say "yes" but not "oui."  
The monitoring committee, known derisively as the "Language Police," enforces the law that effectively aims to erase English from the province.  
Peekaboo the parrot became the committee's strangest victim after a woman who walked into a Montreal pet shop and bought the bird, discovered to her horror that it only spoke English.  
The indignant client told the shopkeeper she planned to complain to the language police. "I thought she was joking," the shopkeeper said. However, she acted on her threat.  
"I asked if it was a joke, but she was serious," the monitoring committee's spokesman said. "In any case, it would be better if the parrot would speak in French."  
Meanwhile, the shopkeeper is trying to teach Peekaboo French, but the parrot continues to speak only in English. Despite all his efforts, he has only gotten the parrot to replace "Hello" with the French-accented "Allo."

how they did once they got here. He was mainly looking forward to No. 300,000.  
What other country has leaders who think like this?  
Actually, I can think of one — the nascent Palestinian state.  
Yasser Arafat has said more than a few times that his "secret weapon is the Palestinian womb." Beyond this, he intends to cover the West Bank and Gaza with his own diaspora. How they will live is not important for now. Get them here, so we'll have three million Palestinians, then four million.  
Eventually, with the Israeli Arabs, we'll outnumber the Jews, and then who knows what the future might bring?  
JEWS and Arabs alike, we're all nuts.  
Breed, immigrate, fill up the empty spaces. To hell with the water shortage, we'll desalinate, forget that it might be cheaper to settle us all on the moon.  
Our duty is to make sure that there isn't a patch of green anywhere. And don't talk about birth control.  
I remember a few years ago, an Israeli environmentalist was on TV saying that at the rate we were growing, this flyspeck country would have over eight million people in 2020 — environmental hell. Timidly, he suggested that maybe we should begin thinking about birth control so we'll have only seven million people in 2020, thereby postponing hell for another generation.  
"You have no values," a rabbi on the panel told the environmentalist. "How can you speak of Jewish birth control after the Holocaust?"  
That's it. We've got the Holocaust to make up for. We've got the Zionist mission. We've got the Arab demographic problem. The Palestinians have 1948 to make up for. They've got to ingather their own exiles. They've got their secret weapon.  
We all just love this land, don't we? We're loving it to death. The New Middle East may not have arrived yet, but it will.  
The writer is a journalist living in Tel Aviv.

# The untold legacy of the American Civil War

**P**PRIVATE Brown was shot in the leg during the American Civil War. As the 21-year-old Confederate cavalryman struggled to stay mounted, his horse fell on him, snapping the thigh bone in the same leg. Medically, even with the compound fracture, the bullet wound would probably not be life-threatening today. But this was a hot, muggy Friday in September 1862. For nearly two months, Brown suffered in a Union hospital. On November 7, he died.

Private Brown's black-and-white photograph stares out at visitors from a wall in the new National Museum of Civil War Medicine in Maryland. His story is a newly recognized footnote in American medical history, told in a Civil War museum unlike any other.

Rather than concentrating on battles, or slavery, this museum is about an unheralded result of the war: that former Surgeon General C. Everett Koop calls "a watershed in the history of medicine." Many museums focus on the Civil War and its battles, but what happened to its 620,000 dead and even more wounded gets only passing mention.

"What we take for granted in medicine today started then," says Dr. Gordon E. Dammann, a dentist in Lena, Illinois, who came up with the idea for the museum. "Before the war, American medicine was looked down on by the rest of the world. After the war, we quickly became the leader."

Forced to cope with rampant illness and horrible wounds numbering in the tens of thousands, doctors with little in the way of modern knowledge or technology experimented, improvised, and invented. The list of advances taken for granted today is impressive: better sanitation practices, modern hospitals, nursing as a profession, wide use of anesthetics, the triage system of treating the injured, mobile surgical units - all have Civil War roots.

In the process, doctors saved many like Carlton Burgan, whose photograph hangs next to Richard Brown's at the museum. Burgan was a Union foot soldier, just 18, when a cold turned into pneumonia. Today, antibiotics, nourishment and rest would quickly return him to health.

But he survived this Civil War reality: for every soldier that bullets and shrapnel killed on the battlefields, two died of diseases - from measles to malaria, diphtheria and typhoid.

Burgan's well-intentioned doctor, who knew nothing about germs or antibiotics, treated him with "calomel," a mercury-based potion intended to make him salivate and, thus, flush his body of "bad humors."

It was common practice 134 years ago. No one knew that mercury was a toxin. So the "remedy" ate away much of the soft tissue

inside the young soldier's mouth, not to mention his jawbone, right cheekbone and eye, and part of his nose.

A "before" photo of Burgan's disease-eroded face reminds you of a grotesque Popeye.

His face was restored to near-normal dimensions and features, though thickly scarred with Frankenstein-esque seams where live tissue was stitched to cover a reconstructed jaw, cheek and nose. Gordon Buck, the New York doctor who did the work, is regarded as the father of modern plastic surgery. Add a happy ending: Burgan was discharged from the army, married, and had "many" children before dying at 71 in 1915.

Stories that personalize the war accompany many of the 3,000 medical tools, devices, kits, packages, medicines, accoutrements, and rare documents collected by Gordon Dammann. This material constitutes the private, nonprofit museum's starting point.

Frederick was chosen for its location because the city actually was a major wartime medical center. No fewer than 29 churches, schools and other buildings in Frederick, many near today's museum, served as hospitals at some point during the war.

CIVIL War "surgeons," left behind more than 50,000 legs and arms amputated at various battlefields. But even with only a few of Dammann's items on display now, the museum's exhibits reshape our understanding without sugarcoating the obvious. In fact, the museum's goriest element, discreetly played over-and-over on videotape next to a reconstructed field hospital, is a chillingly realistic leg amputation connected by Civil War re-enactors.

But, you learn that even under the best of conditions, those so-called "sawbones" doctors could not heat infections, including deadly gangrene.

Europeans such as Joseph Lister were only on the verge of discovering germs. So amputation was quick - three to five minutes, in many cases - and while not without risk, a much better wager on life than leaving the patient to die, almost certainly, from infection or blood loss.

You also learn quickly in touring just the one floor (out of three planned) which other medical changes, taken for granted in the 1990s, grew out of the war.

Not least was public sanitation - systematized cleanliness, and separating latrines from water and food in campsites, for example. Early in the war, chronic diarrhea was a major killer as well as spreader of disease.

As a result of the experience gained during the Civil War, hospitals are now viewed as places in which to cure people rather than let them die.

The museum's executive director says, "We've given that gift to the world."



Carlton Burgan's face, here shown after calomel 'treatment,' was then restored to near-normal features. (reprint by Kim Hairston)

## Futuristic medicine on the battlefield

**A** WOUNDED soldier falls to the ground on a smoky battlefield. Who will find him, staunch his bleeding and bring him to safety?

In the movies it used to be John Wayne, rushing through a hail of bullets to rescue his stricken comrade.

That kind of heroism makes good film footage - but not necessarily effective medicine. Now, in an effort to improve the odds, the Pentagon is experimenting with "battlefield telemedicine" using the latest communication technology.

Instead of a hero rushing to save his buddy, future battlefield rescues could work like this: Before going into battle, a soldier is equipped with a sensor - a device strapped to his body or contained in a Dick Tracy-type wristwatch. The sensor monitors the soldier's vital signs - pulse, blood pressure and breathing.

If the soldier is hit and vital signs fluctuate, the sensor sends out an electronic signal that indicates the changes and his location on the battlefield.

The signal is picked up by a specially equipped roving van miles away behind the lines. The doctor in the van uses an electronic device to locate a battlefield medic and guide him to the wounded soldier.

THE medic is equipped with a miniaturized videocamera strapped to his forehead. It can transmit a live video picture of the soldier and his wounds back to the doctor, who can help diagnose the injury and give the medic guidance in how to treat the casualty.

If there are several casualties, this high-tech system helps doctors perform triage on the wounded. Once the soldier makes it to a military hospital, pictures of his wounds can be

sent electronically to a faraway military medical facility to tap experts there.

This high-tech system is not complete yet, but the military has developed a prototype.

Telemedicine devices already are being used in a number of noncombat situations, according to experts at Northrop Grumman Corp., one of several firms the Pentagon has hired to help them modernize military medicine.

Recently, an emergency physician was contacted through the electronic system about a US soldier in Macedonia suffering from severe respiratory distress and was able to provide a swift diagnosis and then walk the physician in Macedonia through what to do.

ACCORDING to Northrop Grumman officials, a worldwide 24-hour consultation system to reach outside clinical specialists has been set up between armed forces medical centers in Europe and the US.

It is helping provide medical information for support of US troops in Bosnia.

The Pentagon also is trying to develop a system in which a patient's medical records can be rapidly accessed electronically.

"We're not talking about everything but about things like lab test results, major diagnoses of illness, outpatient episodes, pharmaceutical use, contraindications," one Pentagon official said.

The Pentagon is contemplating putting this information in a sophisticated dog tag called a "Meditag."

A dog tag containing microchips holding large amounts of information - X-ray images, text and much more - could be read on the spot by a small hand-held military computer. (The Washington Post)

# Zak's fascination with Hussein

Moshe Zak has chronicled 80 years of Hashemite-Zionist relations, writes Greer Fay Cashman



Moshe Zak, who has interviewed many great world leaders, was candidly taken with King Hussein. (David Rubinger)

**T**HERE is an essential difference between a historian who researches data from another era and one who chronicles the events of his own times. Moshe Zak falls into the latter category. A veteran journalist and former *Ma'ariv* editor, Zak has witnessed the turmoil of the Middle East since before the establishment of the State, and has been writing about it and other world events for over half a century.

He is particularly fascinated by King Hussein of Jordan and his complex relationship with Israel, which until recently was one of public animosity but private friendship.

The secret meetings between King Hussein and Israeli leaders have been an ongoing source of curiosity - not just in Israel, but abroad. Zak's writings on the subject have appeared in the *Washington Quarterly*, *Washington's Global Affairs* magazine, *The Middle East Quarterly*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *The Jerusalem Post* and several other publications. *Egypt's October* daily even lifted material from *Ma'ariv*, and did not omit to give Zak his due credit.

Other Jordan-Israeli watchers who may be as enamored with the subject as Zak himself can now read about all of King Hussein's secret and not-so-secret meetings with high-ranking Israelis in a new book, *Hussein Makes Peace - Thirty Years of Secret Talks*, which has just been published by Bar-Ilan University Press.

To mark the book's publication, Bar-Ilan's Besa Center for Strategic Research will today host a debate on the future of the Israel-Jordan-Palestine triangle, and Zak himself will speak at the end of the discussion.

Although most of the subject matter in the book was familiar to him, Zak, who is a painstaking perfectionist, spent four-and-a-half years completing it as he checked, double-checked and cross-referenced every detail, name and date. Much of the material is based on his personal interviews with heads of state, diplomats and former high-ranking army officials. He also gained access to highly classified documents which contained the protocols of the secret meetings. Because the meetings were always conducted in English, both Israel and Jordan recorded them in English, says Zak. Among those he met were Abba Eban, Reuven Shiloah, Yigal Alon and Moshe Dayan.

Zak recounts the story of a September 1968 meeting between Hussein, Eban, Alon and Ya'acov Herzog. They were discussing the Alon plan for a territorial compromise which would give Israel sovereignty over all of the Jordan Valley and the Judean Desert, while Jordan would annex part of the West Bank, to which it would have an access corridor in Ramallah, Nablus and possibly Jericho.

Hussein, Eban, Alon and Ya'acov Herzog. They were discussing the Alon plan for a territorial compromise which would give Israel sovereignty over all of the Jordan Valley and the Judean Desert, while Jordan would annex part of the West Bank, to which it would have an access corridor in Ramallah, Nablus and possibly Jericho.

The king was in disagreement, but Zaid Rifai, the uncle of Omar Rifai, Jordan's current ambassador to Israel, whispered to him in Arabic that it would be wiser not to argue, whereupon the king said in English "This is totally unacceptable." The Israelis in turn informed him that he should not be under the misapprehension that they did not understand Arabic.

Not all of Israel's prime ministers met the king. Among those who didn't were David Ben-Gurion, Moshe Sharett, Levi Eshkol and Menachem Begin, though Sharett had met with the king's grandfather, Abdullah.

In fact, there have been contacts between members of the Hashemite royal family and Zionist leaders for almost eight decades, ever since 1918 when Chaim Weizmann went to Mecca to meet Emir Feisal, son of the Arab nationalist leader Sharif Hussein of Mecca.

The contacts span four generations, taking into consideration that King Hussein's mother, on her visits to London, served as a courier for an exchange of messages between Jordan and Israel.

Herzog, as the emissary for both Ben-Gurion and Eshkol, met with the king on several occasions. Nearly all meetings between Hussein and the high-level Israelis took place in London, but Golda Meir met him in Paris, in September 1965, when he was on his way to Casablanca.

His brother Prince Hassan also met with Israelis, long before the signing of the peace treaty. In 1963, the king asked Israel to lobby the Americans for economic

aid for Jordan, and Israel complied. However the Americans were more inclined towards giving him tanks than money. These tanks were eventually captured by Israel.

On more than one occasion, Israel came to Hussein's rescue when his life and the stability of his country were at risk.

On July 2, 1967, less than a month after the Six Day War, Herzog asked the king if he would be prepared to sign a peace treaty with Israel. Hussein's reply was affirmative, but he asked for time, explaining that he had to remain in step with the Arab camp.

Zak is convinced that Hussein always wanted peace and backs up this contention by referring to missives sent by the king to various Israeli leaders in which he always writes about peace between the sons of Abraham.

Sometimes Israel willingly ate humble pie to appease Hussein's honor. Zak cites the April 1970 announcement by the Jordanian government that the king had led the army which had conquered the areas of Assafi and Affili south-east of the Dead Sea.

The truth of the matter was that it was from these two areas that terrorists were sabotaging operation of the Dead Sea Works. So in 1968 minister of finance Pinhas Sapir, who was concerned about the effects on Israel's economy, asked IDF chief of staff Haim Bar-Lev to intervene. Israeli forces thwarted the terrorists and maintained control of the area for two years before returning it to Jordan in a well-planned political exercise. But Jordan chose to publicize it otherwise. "It wasn't a conquest," declares Zak. "We gave it back to him."

Nonetheless Zak, who has interviewed many of the world's great leaders, is candidly taken with Hussein. "I'm impressed by the man without having met him," he says. "I'm amazed by his ability to change his strategic thinking with regard to Israel and his rhetoric is very interesting."

## Orgasm or bust

**D**EAR RUTHIE, Every time my wife gets an orgasm, she gets into a bitchy mood all day... sometimes for two. When she fails to reach climax, she is all sweetness and thoughtfulness. Is this some sort of common feminine perversion? Or does she, or do I, or do both of us, need some long-term psychological help? At Odds with Wife's Orgasms Somewhere in Israel Dear At Odds, In the first place, you can never really be certain as to when your wife is actually having an orgasm. You only know what she allows you to know. In the second place, like beauty, "hitchiness" is often in the eye of the beholder. Thirdly, since marital sex - including foreplay and aftermath - involves two partners, your wife's behavior can only be examined in relation to your own. This is not to say that you are to "blame" for what you coin her "feminine perversion"; only that you are as active a participant as she in this dynamic. Whether you or she - or you and she - are in need of long-term counseling depends on what the real problem is. Without discussing the issue with your wife, you will be hard put (so to speak) to find out. After all, while you may think that orgasms a happy marriage make, perhaps your wife is equally focused on stimulating a very different erogenous zone. The one between the ears.

(who has weekly visitation rights), they are completely out of whack. Sometimes it takes days before they settle down again. But then, the whole cycle begins again. Don't misunderstand me. Their father is a good father. I have no complaint with the time they spend together, nor do I begrudge the fact that he shows them a good time (by taking them out to eat and to movies, etc.). But it makes life very difficult for me to have to deal with the effects of these visits. And since I am the parent who is responsible for their daily routine, I often resent getting "stuck" with all of the problems, while my ex gets to enjoy the

**DEAR RUTHIE**  
**RUTHIE BLUM**  
children. Resentful Restorer of Order Jerusalem Dear Resentful Restorer, This particular problem is one which may never be entirely solved, but can be alleviated through mutual cooperation and understanding between you and your ex-husband. Judging by the tone of your letter, fortunately, such cooperation sounds possible in this case. Counseling with a divorce mediator could be helpful. In the meantime, you should consider two main aspects of this situation which tend to become hurried when times get rough: The first is that while your ex-husband "gets to enjoy the children," you are the one who has retained the family. As such, your being "stuck with the problems" which family life entails is inevitable. And, for all of the "good times" your children's father has with them, he has been divested of the other side of parenthood - one which, undoubtedly, he misses. The second is that every human act or choice has consequences. Divorce is no exception. But neither is marriage. The problems you are experi-

encing as a result of your ex-husband's weekly visitation rights are not necessarily worse than those you would be experiencing if no such visits were to take place - or if you had stayed in an amicable marriage. They would merely be different. Keeping this in mind cannot cause a miraculous transformation in your children's behavior, but might serve to boost your own morale while having to deal with their behavior.

Letters should be addressed to: 'Dear Ruthie,' POB 81, 91000 Jerusalem. For E-mail: editors@jpost.co.il

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BUSINESS & FINANCE

Thursday, November 23, 1995

Exports up 20% in October

DAVID HARRIS

EXPORTS of goods increased at an annual rate of 20 percent in October, after increases of 18% and 14% in September and August respectively, the Central Bureau of Statistics reported yesterday.

Economic activity and exports grew and there were signs of a slowing in consumption during September and October, according to a collection of economic indicators published by the CBS.

This is the second bimonthly collection of figures indicating a possible reversal in the economy's slowdown.

Industrial production increased by an annual 5% to 6%, in comparison to the 3% to 4% registered from March to June.

Since May, there has been an increase in exports in dollar terms, excluding diamonds and exports from the territories, as against a period of stability between February and April.

The Cost of Living Index has slowed since May, reported the Bureau. In October the index recorded an annual rate of 4%.

The shekel exchange rate against the basket of currencies rose 10% in the last two months after reductions in July and August.

Investments in factory equipment and transportation increased some 4% to 5% in the last two months. This after virtually zero change in the previous six months.

The physical size of building startups was 11% higher in the third quarter than in the previous three months. However, this figure was 5% lower than the third quarter in 1995.

Tourist numbers have remained constant since July, following a "sharp" decline in June. The number of new immigrants arriving in October was higher than in recent months, with 7,200 entering the country, compared to an average of 5,400 from May to September.

Clal Israel profits plummet; Israel Corp. slips into the red

COMPANY RESULTS GALIT LIPKIS BECK

TWO of Israel's leading business empires registered poor financial results for the third quarter, citing the general slow-down in the economy as a key factor in their declining fortunes.

The earnings of Clal Israel, Israel's second largest holding company, plummeted to NIS 1.59 million, compared with NIS 72.85m. in the corresponding period last year, while the Israel Corporation, the Eisenberg Group's main investment conglomerate, shifted from profit to loss.

Clal Israel's net earnings in the first nine months of the year fell to NIS 110.46m. compared with NIS 150.64m. in the same period in 1995.

The company attributed its under-performance mainly to three of its troubled companies in the high-tech, textiles and food sectors. "If you set aside Scitex, Kitan and Sunfrost, you get a totally different picture," said a press release attached to Clal's financial statements.

Clal has recently launched rationalization plans in all three companies in an attempt to improve future earnings.

However, analysts who spoke on condition of anonymity said the poor results could not be divorced from the holding company's "management problems."

Meanwhile, the appointment of Bezeq director-general Yitzhak Kaul as the new manager of Clal was formally approved yesterday at the company's board of directors meeting. Kaul will take over from David Weinsahl at the start of April, 1997.

In its statement, Clal said its results include capital losses and other special clauses of NIS

33m. in the third quarter. The capital losses derived mainly from a depreciation in asset value of Scitex, other industrial companies and drop in the value of securities on the capital market.

The losses were partly offset by capital gains derived from the sale of ECI Telecom shares, issue of Cimiron and the private issue of some of American Israel Paper Mills household paper division to Kimberly Clark.

Clal's earnings from the industrial sector registered the highest drop in third-quarter profits, to a net loss of NIS 12m. compared with a net profit of NIS 41.2m.

Earnings from the insurance sector fell to NIS 1.3m. from NIS 22.7m. while profits from the trade sector fell to NIS 0.2m. from NIS 5.4m.

The results were partly offset by a rise in the construction sector, to NIS 11.7m. compared with NIS 9.8m.

Revenues in the third quarter increased to NIS 1.4 billion compared with NIS 1.3b. in the same period last year. In the first nine months of the year revenues grew to NIS 3.9b. compared with NIS 3.7b.

The Israel Corporation reported a third-quarter net loss of NIS 8.8m. compared with a net profit of NIS 59.5m. in the same period last year. Net profits in the first nine months of the year fell to NIS 41m. compared with a net prof-

it of NIS 59.9m. in the corresponding period last year.

Israel Corp. President and CEO Erwin Eisenberg said the third-quarter results reflect the Bank of Israel's foreign currency policy and the slowdown prevailing in the economy since the start of the year.

"This policy causes significant damage to companies like those held by Israel Corp. whose revenues are linked to the dollar while local inputs are more expensive in accordance with the inflation rate," Eisenberg said.

According to an analyst of one of the large banks, all of the country's large conglomerates suffer from the same problems: very high overheads and extremely competitive markets.

"Large conglomerates are out in the rest of the world," the analyst said.

Israel Corp. said the lower earnings were mainly reflected in losses in subsidiaries Zim and Oil Refineries.

The two subsidiaries account for a large part of Israel Corp., the analyst said.

In the third quarter, Oil Refineries reported a net loss of NIS 6.67m. compared with a net profit of NIS 29.4m. in the corresponding period last year. Zim concluded the third quarter with a net loss of \$6.3m. compared with a net profit of \$5.3m.

The nine-month results were partly offset by an improvement in Israel Chemicals earnings, to \$56.8m. compared with a loss of \$15.4m. Shikun U'Pituah reported a net profit of NIS 32.7m. compared with NIS 18.1m. Israel Corp. registered capital gains of NIS 33.3m. in the nine-month period.

Koor, Electric Corp. net down; Hapoalim Investments income up 13%

GALIT LIPKIS BECK and DAVID HARRIS

KOOR Industries yesterday reported a 9.6 percent drop in third-quarter net earnings to NIS 101 million compared to NIS 112m. in the same period last year.

The decrease is mainly due to the local slowdown in economic activity, largely because of the "unpleasant" situation affecting the peace process and monetary policy, and which has led to a rise in the shekel, against many major currencies, Koor's management said.

Koor said it is preparing a four-year plan to be presented to the company's directors in the near future. The plan will define objectives regarding sales, profit and shareholders' equity.

Net income in the first nine

months increased to NIS 497m. compared to NIS 454m. The yield on shareholders equity in the period reached 16.9%.

Sales in the third quarter increased 3.3% to NIS 2.7m. compared to NIS 2.63m. In the first nine months, sales rose 2.3% to NIS 8.53m.

Exports in the third quarter rose 17.5% to \$296m. In the nine month period, exports grew 10.7% to \$909m., mainly due to an increase in Tadiran and Makhteshim-Agan's sales.

Koor Chief Executive Benjamin Geon said the change in the shekel's exchange rate led to a loss of proceeds from exports in the nine-

month period of NIS 100m. About 35% of Koor's revenue comes from exports.

Operating income fell 14.9% in the third quarter to NIS 177m. In the first nine months, operating income increased 4.1% to NIS 627m.

Koor is continuing with its focus on core businesses, while gradually selling other parts of its business, said management's comments attached to its financial statement. In the reported period, the company completed the sale of its holdings in Seifen to Ezz Lavid for \$12m. The company is negotiating the sale of its 24.5% holding in Israel Edible Products (IAMI) to C.P.C. Koor also may sell its holdings in other companies.

In the third quarter, the board proposed an interim dividend of NIS 23m.

The Hapoalim Investments holding company completed the third quarter with a 13% growth in net profits to NIS 8.7m. compared to a net profit of NIS 7.7m. in the same period last year.

Since the start of the year, earnings increased to NIS 24.4m. compared to NIS 22.4m. in the same period last year. Hapoalim Investments' share in affiliated companies fell 35% to NIS 9m. The group's share in the earnings of Matav and Trinet Venture Capital increased, while its share in the earnings of Ophir, Orion and AG fell.

Revenue in the third quarter grew to NIS 151.33m. in the quarter compared to NIS 115.2m. In the first nine months, revenue increased to NIS 401.3m. from NIS 326.4m.

Earlier this week, Sait Industries, a member of the Danicor Group, and Hapoalim Investments agreed that Sait will receive an option to purchase Hapoalim's 16.2% share in Matav-Cable company for NIS 109.7m. According to the agreement, Hapoalim Telecommunications will acquire Sait's 13% share in Hapoalim Investments for NIS 90m.

The Israel Electric Corporation's third-quarter net profits declined NIS 70m. on the same period last year to NIS 165m., the company reported yesterday.

This decline, according to the company, is because of increasing expenditure, coupled with a 5.1% real-terms drop in electricity prices to consumers in comparison to the third quarter of 1995.

Electricity sales totaled some 8 billion kilowatt hours, a 7.4% increase. Receipts from sales came to NIS 2b., similar to the same figure last year.

Net profits in the first nine months stood at NIS 458m., 14% up on the NIS 403m. recorded between January and September last year. The increase was because of a reduction in expenditure in the first half of 1996.

The change in the third quarter also was down to new trends in inflation and the shekel's performance against other major currencies.

Electricity prices decreased in real terms 4.2% in the first three-quarters.

The Menorah insurance company completed the third quarter with a net profit of NIS 540,000 compared to NIS 8.74m. in the same period last year. Net profit in the first nine months of the year decreased to NIS 14.3m. compared to NIS 20.2m.



A French trucker sips coffee after spending the night with other drivers in his cab blocking the port of Calais in northern France yesterday. The striking French truckers are demanding better working conditions. (Reuters)

Comptroller: Gov't loan records are inconsistent

EVELYN GORDON

THERE are many discrepancies in the Treasury's records of government-extended loans, according to the State Comptroller's Office. The Knesset State Control Committee was discussing a check the office had done of 730 state loans.

In 35 percent of these loans, the office discovered discrepancies between the balances recorded in the Accountant-General's Office and the balances recorded by the borrowers.

In another check of 828 loans, the comptroller discovered that the accountant-general did not have repayment records for about 30% of the loans.

The government's loans are estimated to be worth some NIS 53 billion.

Shimon Gal, director-general of Inbal - the company responsible for managing the Treasury's loan accounts - told the committee that the discrepancies were merely

technical and did not reflect a real difference. However, he said, the firm was trying to correct the discrepancies.

Mazal Nimrodi, the Treasury's chief accountant, added that the reason there were no repayment records for so many of the loans is that about NIS 28b. of these loans represent mortgage subsidies. Repayment records for these loans are kept by the mortgage banks, rather than the government, she said.

However, the committee was unimpressed by these reassurances. Committee chairman Ran Cohen (Meretz) said he was afraid the discrepancies would ultimately result in losses to the government of billions of shekels. He also said the Treasury should have some mechanism for supervising the mortgage banks, rather than leaving the repayment of government mortgages entirely in their hands.

Opel denies it's in talks to settle VW lawsuit

FRANKFURT (Reuters) - German carmaker Opel AG yesterday said it was not at the moment in talks with rival Volkswagen AG to reach an out-of-court deal on a US civil court lawsuit Opel has filed against its rival alleging it had stolen industrial secrets.

"There are at the moment no settlement discussions between Opel (and parent company General Motors Corp) and Volkswagen," Opel said in a statement. Opel made the announcement after Germany's Spiegel magazine said at the weekend that the carmakers were in secret talks to settle the lawsuit linked to the transfer of former GM production chief Jose Ignacio Lopez de Arcaiz in March 1993 to Volkswagen.

The carmaker said it was not its policy to comment on the status of confidential settlement negotiations but said it felt required to do so "to correct misleading information that has been disseminated to the public, as in this case."

A Volkswagen spokesman was not immediately available for comment.

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Table with 2 columns: PRIME Mutual Fund for Foreign Residents and TARGET Mutual Fund for Foreign Residents. Includes purchase and redemption prices.

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ISRAELI MONEY MARKETS Table showing Patah (foreign currency deposit rates) and Shekel Foreign Exchange Rates.

Key Representative Rates table with columns for currency, rate, and change.

NEW STOCK MARKETS table listing various stock indices and their values.

New York market indexes table showing major US stock indices.

NYSE stocks table listing individual stock prices and changes.

Other stock market indexes table listing international and regional indices.

Israeli stocks in US table listing prices of Israeli companies on the NYSE.

Commodity Trading Ltd. table listing prices for various commodities.

FOREIGN EXCHANGE table listing dollar crossrates for various currencies.

LIBOR RATES table listing interest rates for different terms and currencies.

Foreign financial data courtesy of CommStock Trading Ltd. table.

US commodities table listing prices for various goods.

London commodities table listing prices for commodities in London.

Spot market metals (US) table listing prices for various metals.

New York metal futures table listing prices for metal futures.

London metal fixes table listing prices for metal in London.

Commodity Trading Ltd. table listing additional commodity prices.

TEL AVIV STOCKS

Main Tel Aviv Stocks table with columns for Name, Price, % Change, and Volume.

ISRAEL DISCOUNT BANK advertisement with logo and contact information.

INTERNATIONAL STOCK PRICES

Large table of international stock prices for various countries and companies.

Shares gain on optimism over budget

SHARES advanced on optimism that the government will cut the budget, leading the central bank to reduce interest rates and, thus, boost the economy.

Eurobourses depressed by interest-rate concern

LONDON (Reuters) - European bourses ended yesterday lower, depressed by a revival of interest-rate worries and a poor opening on Wall Street.

Dow falls for a second day as investors secure profits

NEW YORK (AP) - Stocks were mixed yesterday as investors moved to secure profits from this month's rally amid some economic data that upset the widespread optimism for stable inflation and interest rates.

CURRENCY RATES table listing exchange rates for various currencies.

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Wall Street's fall. Loodoo seotment was also dented by the latest trade fig- ureds, which showed British exports were doing well despite strong sterling, raising concerns over inflationary pressures. Investors had largely shrugged off rising interest-rate expecta- tions following Tuesday's bud- get, but the new trade data saw inflation fears creep back.... the FTSE 100 index, closed down 19.2 points at 4,049.2. After the market's surge to a record high ahead of the budget, strategists said that finance minister Kenneth Clarke's budget was conservative but not tight enough to allay pressure for further higher interest rates. In Frankfurt, floor trading ended down 0.5% after closing at a new peak on Tuesday. Carmaker Volkswagen AG tumbled 6% after a US judge denied VW's motion to dismiss racketeering claims by rival Opel. The 30-share DAX index in Frankfurt closed down 13.61 at 2,797.03.

since early March. The yield on the 30-year Treasury bond - a key determinant of corporate and consumer borrowing costs - fell from late Tuesday's 6.44 percent to nearly 6.38% before rising to 6.42 percent. Bonds pulled back amid a flurry of data suggesting a faster pace of business activity that could aggravate inflationary pressures such as rising production costs. Advancing issues outnum- bered decliners by a 7-to-1 margin on the New York Stock Exchange, with 1,337 of 1,136 down and 85 unchanged. NYSE volume totaled 377.1 million shares, vs. 533.46 million in the previous session. The Standard and Poor's 500th of fresh air. stock index fell 0.97 to 754.95 and the NYSE's composite index fell 0.50 to 397.48. But the Nasdaq composite slipped from an early rally that had pulled interest rates back down toward their lowest level.

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# National team nets 99-71 road win

## Full court press too much, fast break too quick for Slovaks

A SUPERB fast break, tenacious defense and the loud encouragement of a contingent of Israeli pharmacy students was the perfect prescription for the Israeli national team's 99-71 road victory over Slovakia last night. The victory kept alive Israel's hopes of reaching next June's European Championships in Spain alive as their record in Group A improved to 4-3.

Thanks to a superb first-half effort by the entire Israeli squad that nullified the Slovaks' height advantage, coach Zvi Sherf's team could enjoy a lengthy "garbage time" in the second stanza as they ran up the score against a Slovakian side that turned out to be far less powerful than expected.

That, however, was largely due to a superb job by Ofer Fleischer and Nadav Henefeld on the boards against their bigger opponents, and Henefeld's outstanding defensive job on former Houston Rocket Richard Petruska, who scored just 13 points.

Henefeld seemed to know every move Petruska was going to make before he made it, and the Slovakian grew so frustrated by game's end that he took it out on Israel's Amir Mukhtari, sending him to the floor with a punch for which Petruska was banished from the game.

By then, however, the result was academic, having already been decided in the first half, when Israel quickly established its running

ARYEH DEAN COHEN

game to grab an 18-10 early lead. Petruska kept the Slovaks in it briefly, cutting the lead to 22-20 with 10 minutes to play, but then Israel tightened up its defense and Doron Jamchi got hot.

Sheffer, who played a fine first half until he suffered a minor injury, then began teaming up with Oded Katash, who didn't start. Katash started by hitting his first of five three-pointers on the night, and Israel led, 37-25. Then Katash did his best John Elway imitation, hitting Sheffer on a breakaway with a touchdown pass that gave Israel a 43-29 advantage.

The swarming Israeli defense never let up, and the Slovaks - at a loss to score from outside, where only Jozef Lovik was effective - watched Sheffer sneak in for an offensive rebound as Sheffer's side went off with an unexpected 49-33 halftime bulge.

The injury kept Sheffer out of the line-up at the beginning of the second half, but nothing could keep Katash down. He calmly opened things with another three, then Jamchi fed Motil Daniel for another bomb. Remembering that one good turn deserves another, Daniel then fed Fleischer for a beautiful hoop inside and Israel had a commanding 58-35 lead.

Fans at home couldn't be blamed for tuning in the Shopping Channel at this point, and they didn't miss much the rest of the way. The rag-

tag Slovakian side mounted only brief minutes of anything, resembling basketball, while Katash continued his bombardment of the hoop. When the young Maccabi Tel Aviv star sank yet another three-pointer as family members from the region watched from the stands, the Israeli lead had ballooned to 79-47, and there was still 8:50 to play.

Sherf, aware that the point differential was important, held off on substitutions for a few more minutes, but soon had pity on the hapless Slovaks and emptied his bench. To the credit of the selfless Israeli side, every player on the team scored at least two points. Only a last minute hoop by Peter Micuda kept the final differential under 30 points at 99-71.

The victory greatly improved Israel's chances of finishing third in Group A. The top two teams from each of the five groups go to Spain, as do the four clubs with the best third-place mark. The 28-point differential also helps in case overall point differential comes in to play when determining the best third-place finishers. Katash led Israel with 23 points, while Jamchi had 20 and Henefeld 15.

Israel now must look ahead to what appears to be a crucial game in Berlin vs. Bosnia in Berlin on January 29, but play Georgia first next month. A victory in Berlin would most certainly earn Israel that trip to Spain, something that, based on last night's superb effort, they definitely deserve.



ICE CAPEDES - Toronto's John Craighead opens Vancouver's Scott Walker along the boards during first period action in Toronto on Tuesday night. No penalty was called on the play. (REUTERS)

# Bruins shut out Flyers

BOSTON (AP) - Eric Lindros had his return to the Philadelphia line-up spoiled by Boston goalie Bill Ranford, who stopped 34 shots Tuesday night as the Bruins shut out the Flyers 2-0.

Lindros missed Philadelphia's first 23 games this season with a groin injury, sustained this summer during the World Cup of Hockey. Lindros centered the Flyers' No. 1 line and managed three shots on goal, including two in the first period when the Flyers put 14 shots on Ranford.

Lindros seemed to be fully recovered from the injury, playing his typically physical game by delivering several hard checks. Ranford's shutout was the Bruins' first this season and the 13th of the goalie's career. Ranford's biggest save came with 2:27 left when he made a sprawling kick save on a shot by Eric Desjardins.

The win snapped a three-game winless streak for the Bruins, who stopped all four of Philadelphia's power-play opportunities. Adam Oates and Kyle McLaren scored Boston's goals.

Panthers 4, Sabres 3  
Ray Sheppard's hat trick - the third in Florida history - sent the host Miami past Buffalo.

Sheppard scored two goals in the second period to tie the game 2-2, and his goal at 7:09 of the third period gave the Panthers their first home hat trick since Sheppard had three goals against the New York Islanders on March 21.

It was Sheppard's ninth career hat trick. Florida goalie John Vanbiesbrouck had 20 saves to improve his record to 11-2-3 this season.

Maple Leafs 3, Canucks 2  
Host Toronto limited the chances on rookie goalie Marcel Cousineau to defeat Vancouver.

Cousineau, 23, stopped 22 of 24 shots and only needed to make a handful of difficult saves in his first NHL start. Cousineau, who made his first NHL appearance in relief of Felix Potvin last week, looked poised as the Leafs' defense turned in its best performance since limiting Phoenix to two goals Oct. 26.

Wendel Clark, Darby Hendrickson and Mats Sundin scored for Toronto. Trevor Linden and David Roberts had the Canucks' goals.

Rangers 3, Coyotes 1  
Mark Messier scored all of visiting New York's three goals, giving him 551 in his career, helping the Rangers break a three-game losing streak.

Mike Richter made 37 saves, and gave up only Keith Tkachuk's goal in the final minute of the second period as New York won for just the third time in its last 11 games (3-7-1) and

fourth in 14 road games (4-7-3). The Coyotes buzzed the Rangers' end of the ice through most of the third period and Richter routed Tkachuk with a right pad save in front of the net with 5:31 left.

Phoenix pulled goalie Nikolai Khabibulin for a sixth skater with 34 seconds remaining only to see Messier score an empty-net goal from center ice to complete his 14th career hat trick.

The loss dropped the Coyotes to 3-7-4 at home and 2-6-3 in their last 11 games overall.

Oilers 10, Flames 1  
Curtis Joseph made 33 saves and 10 visiting Edmonton players scored goals in the rout.

Dean McAmmond had a goal and two assists for the Oilers, who had 17 players picked up at least one point. In handing Calgary its worst defeat of the season, the Oilers looked more like the Stanley Cup champions of the 1980s than the team that has failed to make the playoffs the past four years.

Todd Marchant scored on the game's first shot and things rapidly went downhill from there for the Flames.

Dan McGillis scored his first NHL goal for the Flames, who also got goals from Mats Lindgren, Bryan Marchment, Mariusz Czerkawski, Doug Weight, Miroslav Satan, Andrei Kovalenko and Kelly Buchberger.

WESTERN CONFERENCE  
Central Division  
W L T Pts GF GA  
Dallas 14 7 1 29 54 32  
Detroit 13 8 3 29 70 45  
Chicago 11 10 3 25 64 55  
St. Louis 12 11 0 24 72 70  
Toronto 10 13 0 21 70 79  
Phoenix 6 12 4 16 50 66

Pacific Division  
W L T Pts GF GA  
Colorado 15 5 4 34 91 50  
Edmonton 12 11 1 25 67 75  
Vancouver 12 9 0 24 53 62  
Los Angeles 9 10 3 21 59 72  
Calgary 9 13 0 18 58 69  
San Jose 9 12 4 18 58 60  
Anaheim 7 13 4 16 62 80

### TUESDAY'S NHL RESULTS:

Boston 2, Philadelphia 0  
Florida 4, Buffalo 3  
Toronto 3, Vancouver 2  
N.Y. Rangers 3, Phoenix 1  
Edmonton 10, Calgary 1

# Charlotte takes wind out of Seattle's sails

CHARLOTTE, North Carolina (AP) - Seattle's 11-game winning streak ended Tuesday night as Glen Rice scored 24 points and the Charlotte Hornets turned up the defensive pressure in the second half for a 97-89 victory.

Anthony Mason had his first career triple-double with 14 points, 10 rebounds and 10 assists to help the Hornets win their fourth consecutive game. Charlotte has held those four opponents below 90 points.

Shawn Kemp paced Seattle with 23 points and 14 rebounds. Seattle cut it to 82-77 on a pair of free throws by Kemp at the 5:44 mark, but the Hornets responded with loog 3-pointers by Viade Divac and Curry on their next two possessions to make it 88-78 with 4:19 left.

Lakers 101, Grizzlies 80  
Christian Laettner scored 18 points and best Atlanta built an 18-point lead in the first quarter on the way to a rout of Vancouver.

The Hawks, winning their third in a

row to go two games above .500 (8-6) for the first time this season, scored the first seven points and were never threatened. Dikembe Mutombo added 14 points and a season-high 21 rebounds.

Rookie Shareef Abdur-Rahim led Vancouver with 19 points.

Kings 98, Raptors 87  
Mahmoud Abdul-Rauf scored 18 points to lead five visiting Sacramento players in double figures as the Kings beat Toronto on a night when rookie Marcus Camby was hospitalized with a back injury.

Camby, the college player of the year last season and the No. 2 pick overall in the draft, temporarily lost feeling in his extremities after collapsing during warmups.

Mitch Richmond scored eight of his 15 points in the fourth quarter for the Kings, who won for just the third time in their last nine games. Damon Stoudamire scored 27 points for the Raptors, losers of six straight.

Lakers 100, 76ers 88  
Shaquille O'Neal went 5-for-6 from the foul line down the stretch and had 23 points and 20 rebounds to lead visiting Los Angeles past Philadelphia.

The Lakers didn't play particularly

well, but still overcome a 10-point first-half deficit with help from Eddie Jones' 23 points and rookie Kobe Bryant's 12.

Allen Iverson shot just 5-for-26 for the 76ers, who had 23 turnovers.

Rockets 102, Trail Blazers 101  
Charles Barkley had 30 points and 14 rebounds, the final one under Portland's basket with 2.3 seconds left in overtime, as host Houston overcame an early 19-point deficit to edge the Trail Blazers.

It was Houston's seventh straight victory and improved the Rockets' record to 13-1, tied with Chicago for the best in the NBA. The loss snapped Portland's four-game winning streak.

Hakeem Olajuwon, returning to the lineup after missing a week because of an irregular heartbeat, scored 27 points in 41 minutes.

Mavericks 105, Spurs 101  
Chris Gatling came off the bench to score 26 points, including two clinching free throws with 1.5 seconds left, as host Dallas handed San Antonio its sixth straight loss.

George McCloud added 22 points and Jim Jackson 21 for the Mavericks. Dominique Wilkins paced the short-

handed Spurs with 32 points to move past Alex English into seventh place on the NBA's career scoring list with 25,627 points.

Nuggets 117, Suns 108  
Dale Ellis scored 28 points and Brooks Thompson came off the bench to add a career-high 26 as Dick Motta won his first game as host Denver's coach after replacing Bernie Bickershoff earlier in the day.

Kevin Johnson had 34 points for Phoenix, which lost for a franchise-high 13th consecutive time - and the fifth time under new coach Danny Ainge. Wesley Person added 19 points.

Thompson, who scored 13 of his points in the final quarter, was 6-for-9 on 3-pointers, including two in the first minute of the fourth quarter when the Nuggets extended their lead to 87-74.

TUESDAY'S NBA RESULTS:  
Sacramento 98, Toronto 87  
L.A. Lakers 100, Philadelphia 88  
Charlotte 97, Seattle 89  
Atlanta 101, Vancouver 80  
Houston 102, Portland 101  
Dallas 105, San Antonio 101  
Denver 117, Phoenix 108  
Miami 107, Golden State 88

EASTERN CONFERENCE										
Atlantic Division		W	L	Pct	GB	L10	Streak	Home	Away	Conf
Miami	10	4	7	.414	-	7-3	Won 5	4-2	8-2	4-4
Orlando	6	3	7	.467	1 1/2	5-3	Lost 1	4-3	2-0	3-3
New York	9	3	5	.615	1 1/2	6	Lost 3	4-3	2-0	4-3
Washington	7	6	5	.538	2 1/2	5-5	Won 3	4-5	3-1	5-6
Philadelphia	5	8	3	.385	4 1/2	5-5	Lost 1	2-5	3-3	4-7
Boston	3	8	2	.273	5 1/2	3-7	Won 1	3-5	0-3	2-6
New Jersey	2	7	2	.222	5 1/2	2-7	Lost 1	2-4	0-3	0-5
Central Division		W	L	Pct	GB	L10	Streak	Home	Away	Conf
Chicago	13	1	2	.869	-	9-1	Won 1	6-0	7-1	8-0
Detroit	10	2	2	.833	2	8-2	Lost 5	5-1	5-1	8-2
Cleveland	9	3	2	.750	3	7-2	Won 3	5-2	4-1	5-2
Charlotte	7	5	5	.583	5	6-4	Won 4	5-2	2-3	5-5
Atlanta	8	6	5	.571	5	6-4	Won 3	4-1	5-5	4-5
Milwaukee	7	6	5	.538	5 1/2	4-6	Won 1	3-2	3-4	4-3
Indiana	3	8	2	.273	8 1/2	2-7	Lost 2	1-4	0-4	2-6
Toronto	3	8	2	.250	9	3-7	Lost 6	3-6	0-3	1-6

WESTERN CONFERENCE										
Midwest Division		W	L	Pct	GB	L10	Streak	Home	Away	Conf
Houston	13	1	2	.869	-	9-1	Lost 1	4-1	8-2	7-1
Utah	10	2	2	.818	1/2	7-3	Won 1	5-1	5-4	7-3
Denver	6	4	4	.615	1 1/2	4-6	Lost 1	4-1	3-1	7-4
Portland	5	9	3	.357	2	4-6	Won 1	3-3	1-6	3-3
Dallas	4	9	3	.308	2 1/2	3-7	Lost 8	1-6	1-6	1-8
San Antonio	2	11	1	.154	10 1/2	2-8	Lost 1	2-6	0-6	2-5
Vancouver	2	12	1	.143	11	1-10	Lost 1	2-6	0-6	2-5
Pacific Division		W	L	Pct	GB	L10	Streak	Home	Away	Conf
Seattle	12	3	3	.800	-	9-1	Lost 1	4-1	8-2	7-1
L.A. Lakers	10	5	3	.667	2	7-3	Won 1	5-1	5-4	7-3
Portland	6	6	5	.571	3 1/2	6-4	Lost 1	4-1	4-5	6-4
L.A. Clippers	8	7	4	.538	3	4-6	Lost 3	2-4	4-3	5-5
Sacramento	5	9	3	.357	6 1/2	4-6	Won 1	2-4	3-6	3-6
Golden State	5	10	2	.333	7	2-8	Lost 1	1-6	1-6	1-6
Phoenix	0	13	0	.000	11	0-10	Lost 13	0-5	0-8	0-8

EASTERN CONFERENCE										
Atlantic Division		W	L	Pct	GB	L10	Streak	Home	Away	Conf
Florida	15	3	5	.750	74	16	Won 7	7-1	6-0	12-1
Washington	12	9	1	.562	66	50	Won 7	6-1	3-1	7-2
Philadelphia	12	11	1	.524	65	64	Lost 1	4-1	1-7	5-4
New Jersey	11	6	4	.688	52	52	Won 3	3-3	3-4	3-4
N.Y. Rangers	6	13	4	.308	79	76	Won 1	3-3	1-6	3-3
Tampa Bay	7	11	2	.385	66	66	Won 1	1-3	1-6	1-8
N.Y. Islanders	4	9	8	.308	83	80	Lost 1	2-6	0-6	2-5
Northwest Division		W	L	Pct	GB	L10	Streak	Home	Away	Conf
Hartford	10	6	4	.625	80	80	Won 1	4-1	4-2	4-4
Montreal	10	11	3	.476	88	88	Lost 3	2-4	4-3	5-5
Buffalo	10	11	1	.476	87	87	Won 1	2-4	3-6	3-6
Columbus	8	11	4	.424	88	88	Lost 1	1-6	1-6	1-6
Ottawa	6	8	6	.424	88	88	Won 1	1-6	1-6	1-6
Pittsburgh	7	13	1	.346	81	81	Lost 13	0-5	0-8	0-8

# Gayle goal knocks Villa out of League Cup

LONDON (Reuters) - Striker Marcus Gayle earned Wimbledon an English League Cup quarter-final place for only the second time in its history with a first half goal which was enough to knock out last year's winners Aston Villa on Tuesday night.

Villa, League Cup winner twice in the last three years, had dominated the first 45 minutes before Gayle turned the match around.

There looked no danger when he chased Alan Kimble's long ball a minute before the break but he held off the challenge by defender Steve Staunton to reach the by-line before flashing a left-foot shot

between keeper Michael Oakes and his right-hand post. Villa's misery was completed when England defender Gareth Southgate was stretched away in the 82nd minute with what looked a serious knee injury.

In other League Cup fourth round matches, Premier League Southampton was held 1-1 at First Division Oxford while Ipswich won 1-0 at home against Gillingham.

BRITISH SOCCER RESULTS:  
League Cup fourth round: Ipswich 1, Gillingham 0; Oxford 1, Southampton 1; Wimbledon 1, Aston Villa 0.

# Hudson, Kirsten lead South Africa's charge

CALCUTTA (Reuters) - Centuries by opener Andrew Hudson and Gary Kirsten propelled South Africa to 339 for two on the opening day of the second Test against India yesterday.

Hudson and Kirsten responded to skipper Hansie Cronje's call for greater discipline from his batsmen after their poor showing in the first Test with a stand of 236 in 60.2 overs.

It surpassed South Africa's previous best opening partnership of 155 against India, featuring Hudson and Kepler Wessels, at Port Elizabeth in 1992-93.

Hudson enjoyed some luck in the opening session when he twice edged fast bowler Jagavall Srinath, who kept a good line and length on a placid pitch.

Hudson's 146 - his fourth Test century - came off 244 balls and included 24 boundaries. He eventually fell when he edged the ball into his stumps as he tried to cut a delivery from Venkatesh Prasad.

Kirsten looked confident against both pace and spin, playing some exquisite cover drives. He was dismissed in the first over after tea when he dragged a ball on to his stumps while aiming



SMOKIN' - South Africa's Andrew Hudson en route to 146. (REUTERS)

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# Effort to reach compromise in Labor to continue today

"TODAY the central committee will determine whether Labor is on the way to renewal," Labor Party leadership candidate MK Ehud Barak said last night.

Fervish consultations in an attempt to reach a compromise agreement on the schedule for Labor's leadership showdown and convention continued all day yesterday in Barak's camp and in the coalition of "camps" led by party leader Shimon Peres and MKs Ephraim Sneh, Haim Ramon and Uzi Baram.

The main issue splitting the party is whether to have the leadership showdown and convention next June, the latest date specified by Labor's constitution, as Barak demands, or have the convention in April, as Barak's rivals insist. It was not clear last night whether the scheduled meeting between Peres and Barak would take place. The two were expected to discuss, among other things, the proposal raised by MK Dalia Izak, of Peres's camp, and MK Ra'anan Cohen, of Barak's camp, to hold the leadership showdown in June, but to leave Peres as party chairman until October 1997. He said this would allow the party to remain united and deal with the job of being an opposition party trying to bring down the government, without being distracted by the struggle for an heir to the party leadership.

Barak, after consulting with his

MICHAL YUDELMAN

camp leaders, including MKs Ori Orr, Avraham Shohat, Binjamin Ben-Eliezer, Micha Goldman, Eli Goldschmidt, and Cohen, announced that no new compromise had been found.

Commenting on his rivals' attempts to set the convention earlier, Barak said "I am not a haggler in the market place. I made a reasonable proposal, and will accept any date as long as it's not after the deadline set by the constitution (14 months after the election defeat)." He objected to postponing the primaries until summer vacation, when thousands of party members are abroad.

Party leaders warned that unless a compromise is reached, an ugly confrontation may erupt at the committee meeting in Beit Berl. Ramon called on Barak to meet him today to hammer out the differences between them and agree on the vital issues.

He reiterated his call for holding the primaries for the new party leader in June, and an ideological convention in April.

In a meeting of the leaders of the group opposing Barak, Ramon, Barak and Avraham Burg attacked Barak for turning the leadership candidate into the main focus of the controversy, rather than concentrating on ideological issues.

Peres said he could not point out a successor, since there were a few candidates for the leadership and "as long as I'm party chairman I'm bound to the rules of fair play." He noted that he would make his opinion clear on the matter before the leadership showdown.

He predicted that an agreement would be found before the central committee meeting, and that it would not "deteriorate to street fights."

At a Knesset press conference, Cohen called on the party executive to avoid "irreversible harm by splitting the party ranks. Unfortunately, there are those in the party with personal interests who give out poor advice. It's clear to us that Shimon Peres should be allowed to stand at the head of the party as he requests. At the same time, there should be a process of renewal within the leadership within a reasonable period."

Izak said she would try to bring about a meeting between Peres and Barak without mediators. "I see that their positions are close and therefore I am demanding that they and others act responsibly and wisely. I am asking all members of the central committee to call Peres and Barak and demand reach a compromise. If a compromise isn't reached before the party conference, there will be only losers," she said.

Liat Collins contributed to this report



WIZO world chairman Helena Glaser (center), joined by single mothers and Tel Aviv area WIZO activists, celebrates the official opening of a center for Jewish, Arab and new immigrant single-parent families in Jaffa. (Dana Steman/Israel Sun)

## German gov't to pass budget compensating Nazi victims

MARILYN HENRY NEW YORK

THE German government is expected to pass a budget tomorrow that includes DM 80 million (NIS 171m.) to compensate Nazi victims in eastern Europe.

The funds, which would be allocated over three years beginning in 1998, would provide one-time payments to Nazi victims - Jewish or Gentile - in the Czech Republic, Slovakia and Hungary, according to the Claims Conference.

"It's a beginning, [but] we're still trying to push [Germany] to provide monthly pensions," said Rabbi Israel Miller, president of the Claims Conference.

German opposition politicians also have been pressing for pensions for survivors in eastern Europe. The broader German Holocaust compensation programs do not extend to victims in eastern

Europe, where there are an estimated 13,000 Jewish survivors.

The funds would be turned over to eastern European governments to distribute. Because the German measure makes no distinction between Jewish and non-Jewish victims, the pool of funds is diluted by the sheer number of victims.

Survivors have attacked similar programs in Russia, Ukraine and Belarus, because they do not give priority to Jewish suffering. Those programs also excluded significant groups of Jews by using eligibility criteria that were stricter than those of the German government.

In Belarus, the fund, which is

administered by a foundation, provided one-time payments to Jews and non-Jews who were in concentration camps or who were deported. However, it did not provide compensation for those who were in the ghettos - survivors of which are exclusively Jewish. The foundation determined that the ghetto was a "settlement" and not a place of extermination, said Felix Lipsky, head of the survivors' organization in Minsk.

The limited programs in Russia and Ukraine did not provide compensation for Jews who were in hiding, although that too is recognized by Germany as grounds for compensation.

Germany has declined to push eastern European and former Soviet states to use broader eligibility criteria.

## Swiss panel on Holocaust wealth clears key hurdle

BERNE (Reuters) - Switzerland's upper house of parliament voted yesterday for a sweeping study of Swiss financial dealings with Nazi Germany and the fate of Jewish wealth stashed in Swiss banks during the Holocaust.

The 37-0 vote was almost the final hurdle for a bill to create a panel of independent historians and other experts after unanimous backing from parliament's lower chamber and the Swiss cabinet.

But the upper house also inserted a clause to protect the identities of people named in the study.

This difference must now be ironed out with the lower chamber before the historical commission can be set up at the start of next year.

The bill creates a commission of experts empowered to lift tight banking secrecy rules for a historical accounting of Swiss commerce with Nazi Germany.

Swiss purchases of Nazi gold were a crucial source of funds to finance the German war effort.

It will also review how much wealth was deposited with Swiss banks and other finance companies by Jews and other victims of

Nazi persecution and whether the Swiss have done enough to identify the lost assets of those killed in the Holocaust.

The commission will have full access to bank archives from the war era, but bank secrecy will not be lifted from modern accounts.

The move follows a recent international speculation, and demands for a search from the World Jewish Congress, that Switzerland could still be hoarding Nazi gold or holding millions of dollars in assets belonging to people who perished during Hitler's reign of terror.

## Driving teacher convicted of molesting pupils

"IT was part of my teaching method," said a 62-year-old driving instructor, who was convicted yesterday of sexually harassing and assaulting his teenage pupils and given a one-year jail term. Henry Ohayon of Mitzpe Ramon assaulted the teenage girls while

they were driving, putting his hands on their intimate parts and propositioning them. Ohayon confessed to the assaults, which took place in 1991 and 1992, and said he believed that was the way to teach driving and to encourage his pupils.

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## Haifa Chemicals workers create disruptions after negotiations fail

DAVID RUDGE

ANGRY Haifa Chemicals employees stopped ammonia-laden tankers from leaving the bayside factory yesterday, after negotiations with management on a new collective labor agreement broke down.

The protest, which came two weeks after work resumed at the factory, did not affect production at the site.

The Haifa Regional Labor Court on November 14 instructed both management and the 500 employees, who had been on strike, to return the factory to normal production and resume negotiations.

Since then an uneasy truce has prevailed during which Histadrut officials and works committee rep-

resentatives accepted management's demands for reorganization and efficiency measures.

The workers, however, did not accede to proposed staff cuts and stressed that all changes would have to be implemented within the framework of a new collective agreement.

The existing accord is due to expire at the end of the year.

According to the Histadrut, management initially expressed an interest in the workers' proposals, but on Tuesday vetoed them by insisting on its right to rescind the collective agreement in order to

implement staff cuts and other efficiency measures.

The announcement of the breakdown in talks yesterday angered the workers, some of whom blocked the gates of the factory, preventing tankers loaded with ammonia and bound for Haifa Chemicals' other factory in the South from leaving the plant.

Management reacted to the disturbances by petitioning the labor court for injunctions against all 500 workers for being in contempt of the court's earlier order to return to a normal work routine.

The petition was rejected, and the two sides are to appear before the court again today to report on the state of negotiations.

## 15 drug dealers arrested in Jaffa

FIFTEEN drug dealers were arrested in Jaffa during a raid early yesterday. At 3 a.m. police, armed with court orders, raided the dealers' homes, arresting them and confiscating weapons.

Police said all 15 were known figures in the drug world and they expect the arrests will hurt the drug market in the area.

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**WEATHER**

Jerusalem	11-18
Beersheva	10-22
Haifa	13-21
Tel Aviv	14-23
Ramat Gan	15-24
Netanya	16-25
Be'er Sheva	17-26
Dimona	18-27
Jerusalem	11-18
Beersheva	10-22
Haifa	13-21
Tel Aviv	14-23
Ramat Gan	15-24
Netanya	16-25
Be'er Sheva	17-26
Dimona	18-27

Forecast: Partly cloudy.

**AROUND THE WORLD**

City	Low	High	Wind	Cloud
Amsterdam	01	08	light	partly
Berlin	02	09	light	partly
Buenos Aires	14	24	light	partly
Chicago	10	18	light	partly
Copenhagen	02	09	light	partly
Dublin	03	10	light	partly
Helsinki	04	11	light	partly
Hong Kong	22	29	light	partly
Jerusalem	11	18	light	partly
London	03	10	light	partly
Los Angeles	11	18	light	partly
Moscow	01	08	light	partly
Manila	24	31	light	partly
Medan	24	31	light	partly
New York	08	15	light	partly
Osaka	12	19	light	partly
Paris	04	11	light	partly
Stockholm	05	12	light	partly
Taipei	17	24	light	partly
Tokyo	09	16	light	partly
Yokohama	10	17	light	partly
Zurich	02	09	light	partly

**Winning cards**  
IN yesterday's daily Chance drawing, the winning cards were: the king of spades, ace of hearts, king of diamonds and queen of clubs.

## Ofer Levy indicted for beating wife

RAINE MARCUS

ORIENTAL singer Ofer Levy was indicted on assault charges in Tel Aviv Magistrate's Court yesterday, after he allegedly beat his wife Ilana three days ago in a Bat Yam park.

Ilana Levy complained to police and Levy was arrested. However, he denied the assault charges, saying "when I beat people, I break their bones."

"There were no marks [on her] and I did not beat her," he said. "I am against beating women. Anyone who wants to beat someone should beat up men."

According to the charge sheet, Levy beat his wife on her chest, face and neck, telling her that if she complained to police, he would send people to murder her.

Levy and his lawyer insisted that Ilana Levy was simply "setting her husband up" and has invented the assault. He was released on NIS 3,500 bail and banned from entering his wife's home.

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